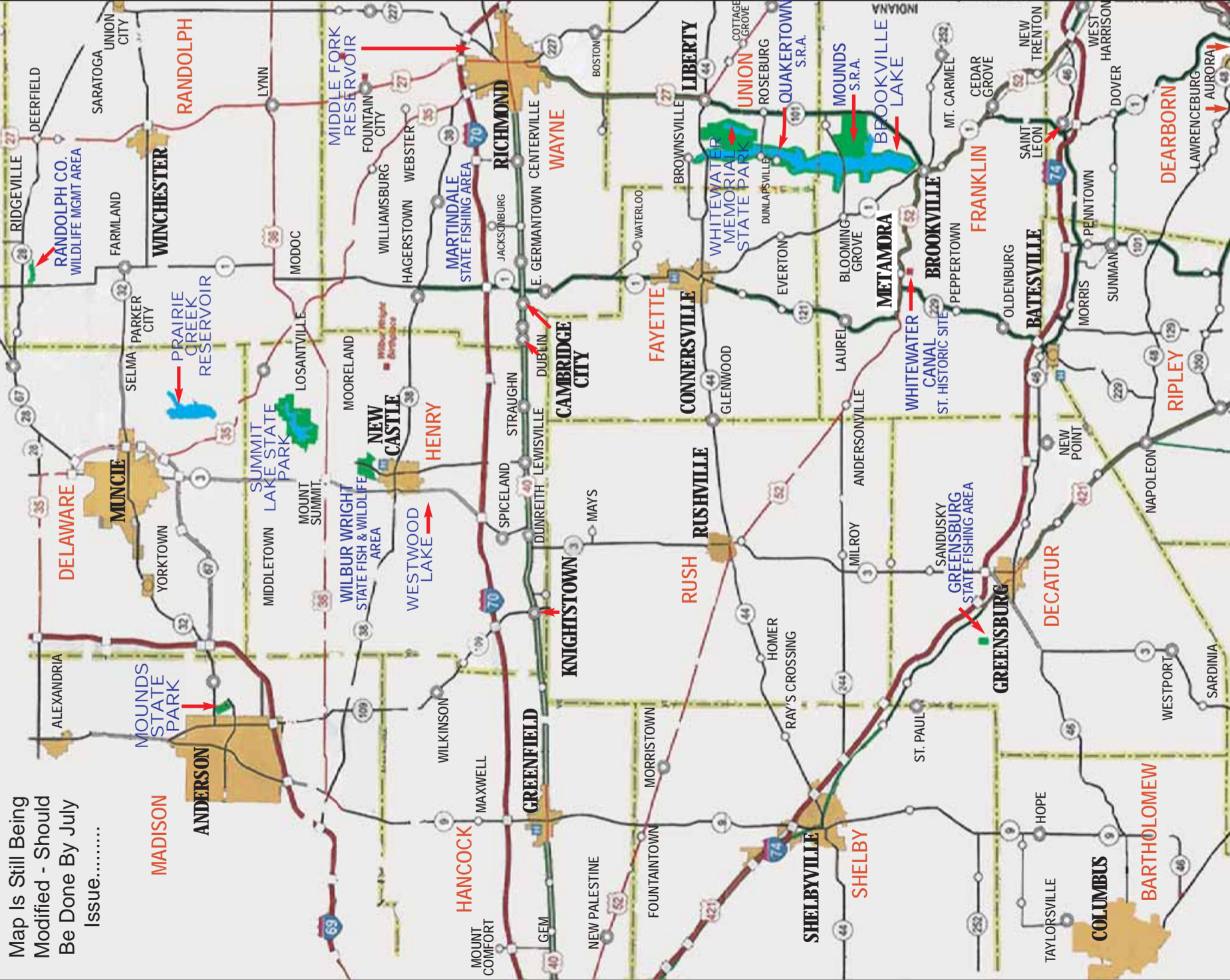


THE NEW GAD-A-BOUT TERRITORY

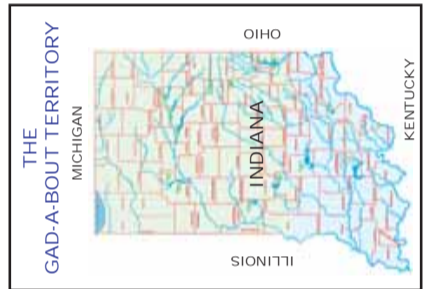
Map Is Still Being Modified - Should Be Done By July Issue.....



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EXPLORING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE GAD-A-BOUT TERRITORY



FAWN HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT, BUT MOM IS NEARBY, LEAVE IT ALONE - SEE PAGE 18



CHRISSEY BOONE CATCHES 15" 2.2 LB CRAPPIE AT WHITEWATER MEMORIAL SP - SEE PAGE 25



DAVE WILCOX HOLDING A BOWL OF MOREL MUSHROOMS SPRING 2020 SEE PG 24



MIKE ASKS, "IS AN ELECTRIC BOAT IN YOUR FUTURE?" - SEE PAGE 13

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 Quakertown Gate House
CAMBRIDGE CITY
 Cutshaw's Market
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 Bryan's Glass & Bakery
 Centerville City Building
 Centerville Library
 Centerville Senior Center
 Gillman Home Center
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 Shell Service Station - Vine St
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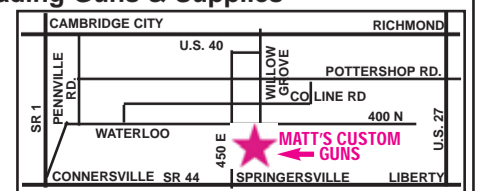
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THE GAD-A-BOUT™

IN THIS ISSUE

JUNE 2020 • Volume XXX • NO. 363

Created in 1990 & Published Monthly
by Kentucky Colonel Ray Dickerson

Or by the name given to me by Golden Eagle
in 1995 LOKA'DWE ICHUTAKU YUSHEDON'
Translated "Man who gets things done!"

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| BROOKVILLE LAKE by Tag Nobbe (June Fishing Brookville Lake 2020) | So You Wanna' Catch More Fish Page 6 |
| INDIANA STATE POLICE by Sgt. John D. Bowling (Traffic Down-Crashes Up, Motorcycle Safety, Get ISP News Went to Your Computer Or Phone). . . | News from the Indiana State Police Page 7 |
| WAYNE COUNTY VETERAN Services Office by Veterans Pete McDaniels & Ron Weadick (Benefits & Programs, Covid-19 Special Application, Still Need VA Drivers!). | Veterans Stories & Information Page 8 |
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GAD-A-BOUT DEPARTMENTS

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ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS

Top Left: With spring many wild animals have their young. Sometimes we want to take them home for pets. **NEVER MOVE IT OR ASSUME THAT IT IS AN ORPHAN!** Leave them alone. See more on Page 18-19 (Gad-a-bout File Photo)

Top Right: Chrissy Boone wanted to share some pictures of the fish she caught while she and her family were fishing on 5/3/2020 at Whitewater State Park. She caught this 15 inch, 2.2 pound Crappie with a jig. She was excited when she caught it. Her husband helped, making sure it didnt break her line. She got it to the bank and the line snapped, so her brother-in-law jumped down and grabbed it so it wouldn't get away. See another photo of her 2.2 pound Crappe caught at Whitewater Memorial State Park on Page 25. (Photo by Chrissy

Boone & Family)
Bottom Left: Dave Wilcox, owner of Dave's Triangle LLC located on Brookville Lake at 2955 S. Old Dunlapsville Road near the Dunlapsville Ramp. Dave and his mom, Hazel are great friends of mine. See more of his photos on Page 24. (Dave's Triangle, Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)

Bottom Right: Every professional bass fisherman and inland lake walleye guide has an electric motor on his or her boat. So do millions of other anglers fishing for anything from sunfish to sailfish in some areas. So when I titled this column about electric boats being something in the future, it was with the full realization, the future is now and has been for some time, at least for some boaters. See more on Page 13 (Photo by Captain Mike Schoonveld)

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Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson
The Gad-a-bout

COVID-19 & PUBLISHING THE GAD-A-BOUT WITH THE CURRENT SCHEDULE OF THE PANDEMIC OPEN & CLOSURES ????

Back in March when I was delivering my April Gad-a-bout and the trouble I was experiencing trying to deliver and collect for the advertising I decided to end the printed copy and only put The Gad-a-bout on my website for the May and June issues. I am now working on putting the June issue together and will have Cara Stallsmith put it on the website later this week. This issue will only be on line on my website www.thegadabout.com.

According to the latest schedule for opening and closed dates for the Covid-19 pandemic July 4th is the Stage 5 and beyond opening date if key principles of health remain positive.

The problem I am faced with is I would be delivering my July paper copy around June 16th which should be okay if Stage 4 of Covid-19 lifts okay with no exceptions. If there is a set back on either Stage 4 or 5 it will cause problems for me and the paper.

Hopefully I will be able to print July issue, but only time will tell. It's going to be a close call.

IT'S THE MIDDLE OF MAY! CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS WEATHER?

The weather man predicts 32 degrees for tonight on the weather channel. Normally it would be in the middle 70's or warmer. I'm still wearing long sleeve shirts and a sweater when I'm over here working on The Gad-a-bout in my office. The furnace just kicked on again. Earlier this morning the weather channel showed a couple of guys in the northeast, Vermont I think, playing golf in the snow!

Mother Earth evidently needs all this or we wouldn't have it. Her purpose out weighs ours.

Alert! Well, the second week of May the weather is actually pleasant, in fact Tuesday May 12 the temperature climbed to the mid 70's. I traveled down to Brookville Lake. The Quakertown ramp was crammed with boat trailers. I'm told it has been like that ever since the virus caused so much unemployment. "Can't go to work might as well go fishing!" Besides that lets face it, a lot of retiree's were there too.

PRESS RELEASE RICHMOND IN. PARKS AND RECREATION COVID-19 ANNOUNCEMENT

In accordance with the state's reopening guide-

lines and in continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Richmond Parks and Recreation Department is announcing a plan to incrementally begin opening areas and amenities. The Department is continuing to work with the Wayne County Health Department and other Public Health Officials to guide these decisions and shape the necessary protocols to ensure the continued health and safety of our community.

When engaging with any Parks facilities and amenities, please follow CDC Guidelines, including distancing yourself at least 6 feet from those outside of your household unit, wearing protective face coverings, and practicing good hygiene, particularly hand washing. While efforts will be made to adequately stock park facilities with sanitizing options, park users should travel with appropriate supplies in order responsibly protect your health and well-being.

Considering the uncertainty around COVID-19, City administration with the Parks Department made the difficult decision to not open the Cordell Municipal Pool for the 2020 season. This decision was made for the health and safety of our community. The installation and testing of the new slide will be completed over the summer for use in 2021. Additionally, the kiddie pool will be painted as scheduled.

To protect the health of the youngest in our community, the Parks Department's 2020 summer camps including JUKO, JUKO ROCKS! Little JUKO, and Sports Camp, will not be offered in their traditional format. Staff is currently developing virtual recreation opportunities accessible via social media, as well as programming compliant with social distancing later in the summer.

Due to the scale of Richmond's Fourth of July firework celebration, City administration with American Legion Harry Ray Post 65 and the Parks Department has proactively postponed the fireworks until Labor Day weekend. As of now, fireworks are scheduled for the evening of September 5th from Roosevelt Hill, with September 7th as a rain date.

The Richmond Parks and Recreation Department is grateful for the community's ongoing support and patience during this difficult and uncertain time. The latest information and updates on programs and events can be found on the city website (www.richmondindiana.gov) and our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/richmondparks/>. Also be sure to check out the digital Recreation Guide at:

<https://www.richmondindiana.gov/resources/2020-recreation-guide>

"The team at Richmond Parks and Recreation work each and every day to bring our community safe and beautiful places to recreate. It has been very encouraging that now more than ever, many across this nation are seeing the benefits recreation provides. While these decisions were not easy, they were made with our safety of the community in mind and we appreciate your continued support and patience." Denise Retz, Park Superintendent

Attached is the current opening plan.

Denise Retz, CPRP

Superintendent

Deniseretz@richmondindiana.gov

Jim Dykes

Assistant Superintendent jdykes@richmondindiana.gov Richmond Parks and Recreation

765-983-PARK

UPDATES BY FACILITY/ PROGRAM/AMENITY

Please note that all dates are tentative and pending administrative approval.

Highland Lake Golf Course

Current - Open with restrictions

Reserve TEE times at highlandlakegc.com or call 765-983-1972

June 14 - Highland Lake Golf Course Club House will reopen. Golf leagues and tournaments will resume

Glen Miller Golf Course

Current - Walking path and practice areas are open

June 14 - Walking Club will resume every Thursday at 7 pm

First Tee will begin and you can register online at www.firstteeindiana.org

Middlefork Reservoir

May 11 - Boats may begin docking at Middlefork Reservoir

Reserve Dock Slip & Annual Launch Permits by contacting the park office via 765-983-PARK

May 16 - Middlefork Reservoir Service Center open for bait and equipment purchase, hours will



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be 9-5 until further notice and weather permitting
****Richmond Farmers Market (Update Below)**

Local food and Farmers Market supporters can continue to order online for special delivery or pick up or NOW order online for pick up at the market when open at:

farmersmarket.richmondindiana.gov

- May 23 Food, Plants and Hygiene Vendors ONLY, 100 maximum capacity
- June 20 Food, Artisan and Craft Vendors, 250 maximum capacity
- July 4 Food, Artisan and Craft Vendors, Hot food and Entertainment

Richmond Senior Center

July 6 Reopen

Sports Facilities, Playgrounds, & Amenities

- May 25 Disc Golf Courses, Hills Bark Park Basketball, Tennis & Pickle ball Courts Restrooms will open with limited hours
- June 14 Sports Leagues will begin. Teams can contact Keith Clemens via email at kclemens@richmondindiana.gov or call the park office for more info

Shelter Rentals

Contact the Park Office to reserve your facility at 765-983-PARK

- May 25 Enclosed/Open Air shelters with capacity under 100 capacity available for rent
- June 14 Enclosed/Open Air shelters with capacity under 250 capacity available for rent

**INDIANA DNR COVID-19 RESPONSE
 UPDATED 5-14-2020 NEXT UPDATE WEEK
 OF MAY 18, 2020 (DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MIGHT INTERVENE)**

(Editor's Note - In these uncertain times one must keep in mind the prospect of things changing at the spur of the moment due to too much power being wielded by eager government officials who seem to relish the power at the present time)

****RICHMOND FARMERS MARKET TO REOPEN WITH UPDATED PROCEDURES RICHMOND, IN.**

Starting Saturday, May 23rd, the Richmond Farmers Market will resume its normal 8am-noon hours every Saturday at Jack Elstro Plaza (47 N 6th Street, across from Morrisson-Reeves Library). Until June 13th, the Market will feature food, plants, and hygiene products for sale. Starting June 20, artisan and craft vendors will be added in, and then on July 4, hot food and entertainment will be welcomed back. All dates are contingent on COVID-19 progress indicators as outlined in Governor Holcomb's Back On Track plan for the State of Indiana and the advice of County Health Officials.

We encourage the public to attend while complying with the following safety rules & regulations:

- To ensure that market attendance does not exceed 100 people at any time, all customers will enter and exit through one of two locations.
- From 8-9am, the market will have a limited opening for those over 65, those with compromised immune systems, and customers picking up pre-orders.



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www.indianacounties.org

News Release

INDIANAPOLIS –Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb announced a local funding component as part of Indiana's plan to spend the state's \$2.4 Billion allocation contained in the recently passed federal CARES Act. Both Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (Aim) and Association of Indiana Counties (AIC) support and applaud this acknowledgement.

“County officials welcome and appreciate Governor Holcomb’s generosity in allowing us access to Indiana’s share of CARES Act resources,” AIC President, Anton Neff, Owen County Council said. “We have always been on the front lines providing county-wide services to all Indiana residents but, the COVID-19 issue has greatly amplified that. Without help like this, our ability to continue providing county services – both short and long term – will be negatively impacted. Our health departments, emergency management agencies, and public safety personnel have carried a heavy load through all of this. That, along with our administration of the Primary Election, changes in operations, and protection of our work force, comes with unexpectedly high costs. Fortunately, we are well-positioned to efficiently place and account for any resources we receive. County officials will do everything they can to deliver consistent service to our citizens.”

Aim President and Warsaw Mayor Joe Thallemer noted, “Indiana’s local units have responded to this crisis with urgency, using the health and safety of our citizens as a constant guidepost. Cities and towns quickly began addressing the needs of our communities and municipal workforces by acquiring PPE, as well as additional sanitizers and cleaners. Our front line public safety and public works departments are working overtime to relieve those that are quarantined or caring for loved ones. We are incurring additional technology expenses to provide remote delivery of municipal services, and much more. Aim applauds Governor Holcomb for committing a significant portion of CARES Act funding to the reimbursement of local governments for some of the unforeseen and unprecedented expenditures resulting from our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

The purpose of Aim shall be to foster, promote and advocate for the success of Hoosier Municipalities as laboratories of innovation, hubs of talent, and the engines driving our state's economy.

The Association of Indiana Counties, Inc. is a nonprofit organization established in 1957 for the betterment of county government. The various functions of the AIC include lobbying the Indiana General Assembly on behalf of counties, serving as liaison among counties, state and federal agencies as well as providing technical assistance and training to county officials and employees.

- To assist with social distancing guidelines, all vendors will be spaced 10 feet apart.
- To ensure product safety for both vendors and customers, customers will not be able to touch products until after they have been purchased and bagged by the vendor. An extra table will be placed in front of each booth to help with social distancing, and vendors will help serve customers and answer any questions they may have.
- Market staff are also requesting, if possible, that only one person per household attend.
- To limit the spread of germs, we ask that all customers wear face coverings while at the Market. Additionally, hand washing stations and hand sanitizer will be available for customer use.
- Restrooms will be open during the Market;

however, capacity will be limited to 2 people at a time to facilitate social distancing.

All vendors will be required to comply with the following rules & regulations:

- All RFM staff and vendors must stay home if they are sick or have been exposed to anyone suspected/confirmed to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- Disposable gloves and/or in-booth hand washing stations are required for vendors
- Masks or face coverings are required for all vendors
- If possible, each vendor will designate one person who handles product, and one person who handles money
- No demonstrations or sampling of products will take place at the Market until further notice
- Point of sale devices will be disinfected regularly, and signature capture will be disabled. If signature capture cannot be disabled, vendors will use single use plastic coverings over the signature

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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| 30' (14 person) | None | \$210.00 |

PONTOON BOATS - Weekend & Holidays

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| | 4 Hours | 8 Hours |
| 24' (10 person) | \$180.00 | \$270.00 |
| 30' (14 person) | None | \$340.00 |

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So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by **Tag Nobbe**
Professional Fishing Guide

June Fishing Brookville Lake 2020

If your struggling to catch a fish, you better get a boat. If you remember last months article in this same publication, I talked about water temperature putting fish on the shore. Well this month water temperature is taking fish off the shore. Since the spawning cycle is over for most fish and the water temperature is moving up through the 70's there is no reason for any fish to be on the banks.

What they are looking for now is something

close to deep water they can live on. When you look across Brookville lake all you see is flat water, but the bottom of the lake is not flat at all. The bottom of Brookville lake is not a bowl. It has drop offs, points, flats, humps, brush piles, old house foundation, rock piles, old river channels, creek channels, and a multitude of other spots that just hold fish. When the fish are on the bank all you really have to know is to fish on the bank. When the fish move to the middle of the lake it's a hole different ball game. You have to know where all these fish holding spots are. The guys that fished before me used land marks to get them close to a spot that they had found from fishing the same body of water over and over for many years. They had no depth finder and no GPS, all they had was their tried and true knowledge and a long piece of rope with a heavy weight. What they did was get close to where they thought the spot was, say it was a hump. They would lower the weight to the bottom and move the boat slowly. If they had to take up rope, they knew they were on the right track. Now they may have to turn around or do circles but eventually they would be on the spot.

When guys my age started fishing, we had depth finders so we could eliminate the rope and weight method, but we still had to find spots. It's long gone now but when I was a kid there was a bait shop by the lake called Garr hill bait and marine. They sold live bait and tackle but they also had a campground. As a you guy growing up one of my best friends from high school was and still is, is Tina Johnson her mom and dad was Dick and Doris Johnson the owners of Garr hill. All my fishing friends where retired and living in this campground. Dick, Wilbur, Ed, Art, and Tom. They have all passed on now except for Tom and Tina, and I do miss them dearly. These guys were my social media. They taught me everything I know about fishing on Brookville lake. They showed me how carry marker buoys on the boat and how to use them to mark spots you would find. They taught me to make mental notes of the depth and look around for some sort of land mark. Usually you could line up on an old tree and an electric tower or a boat dock something like that.

Fast forward to now and you have depth finders with built in GPS mapping and contour lines. You have \$90,000 fishing boats with auto deploy trolling motors with gps spot lock and program-

able depth tracking you have the internet you have cell phones. Now you can get all the social media you need and not really talk to a sole. I'm not really sure if this is good or bad but it is the future.

To know a good spot is not the magic bullet, you still have to know when the fish are going to be on that spot, This is all driven by things like water temperature, wind, water clarity, storm fronts, cold front, food availability or dissolved oxygen in the water. It's a lot of things you can't understand but it all plays a part in putting fish in different areas in the lake. After a while you get to thinking I have got this figured out. Then something different happens and you don't.

I guess my point is spend more time on the water fishing with your friends and family figuring it out, because spending time with your friends and family is the important part and catching fish part is just a bonus.

Good Luck, Tag

If you need more info go to my web site www.brookvillelakeguideservice.com or stop in at 52 Pik-up Convenience store and tackle just south of Brookville on State Road us 52. We have a full line of live bait, tackle and Fried chicken to go. So, when you ask for chicken liver, be specific. Lol

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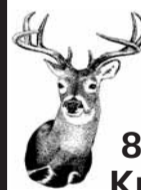
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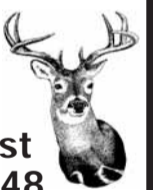
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News from the Indiana State Police



by **Sergeant John D. Bowling**
 Public Information/Recruiting Officer

Traffic is Down-Serious Crash Numbers Are Up

During the Covid “Hoosier Hunkerdown” shutdown, traffic has been for the most part rather sparse, with only essential traffic on the road for March and most of April. One thing that hasn’t been shut down, unfortunately, has been the number of serious injury crashes here in the Pendleton District. We’ve been averaging at least three a week, including two fatal crashes. This isn’t counting the serious injury and fatal crashes that County and City Departments have investigated.

The main reason has been, as traffic numbers have went down, speeds have went up. According to a video released on 4/30 by Indiana State Police Superintendent Doug Carter, available at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Le1aaTHpHIA&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1ONMuBpIEPffOQKcWcU0PYnUe-oCC15FSgFwqw4ypRRu1aWua9aBmnuXI>) speeding tickets for 100 M.P.H. plus are up 24%. Remember, less traffic doesn’t give you a free pass to speed. In the end, as speeds go up so do fatalities. Please slow down and obey all traffic laws to avoid getting an expensive ticket, but more importantly, to protect yourself as well as other motorists. The construction season is also in full swing, so please make sure to slow down for construction zones and protect those workers! Like you and I they all have families that love and depend on them, and just like us they’re out there trying to make a living. As the old saying goes, “PLEASE SLOW DOWN IN CONSTRUCTION ZONES and give those workers The Brake.”

Motorcycle SAFETY

The warm weather of spring and summer brings increased motorcycle traffic, with Hoosiers riding for recreation and transportation. Nationally every year, motorcycle riders are involved in thousands of crashes that result in disabling injuries and death. The Indiana State Police offer these safe driving tips so that everyone can share Hoosier Highways safely.

Tips for passenger vehicles:

- Watch attentively for motorcycles. Check blinds spots before changing lanes and look twice at intersections before you turn or pull out into traffic. Use your turn signals when changing lanes.
- Anticipate hazards that may confront and affect a motorcyclist like large pot holes, debris, or other hazardous road conditions. Allow at least two sec-

onds of following distance between your vehicle and a motorcycle.

• **Be cautious and observant when turning left.** This is the primary cause of most crashes between vehicles and motorcycles, as cars frequently turn left into the path of oncoming motorcycles. Always take a second look for oncoming traffic.

• Remember, motorcycles are entitled to operate in a full lane.

• Obey all traffic laws.

• **ALWAYS LOOK TWICE BEFORE PULLING OUT OR TURNING!**

Tips for motorcycle riders:

• Wear protective equipment and clothing, especially a helmet with face shield.

• **Make yourself visible by wearing bright Hi-Viz clothing, by using reflective tape and by using your motorcycle’s headlight. Always use turn signals when changing lanes and turning.**

• Check your motorcycle before each ride, and do not ride if any equipment is not operating properly.

• Look for road hazards, especially potholes this year! Be especially cautious around intersections, alleys, driveways, and other areas where an animal, pedestrian, or vehicle might enter your path.

• Avoid riding in the blind spot of other vehicles.

• Ride defensively; always leave enough reaction time for unexpected movements from other vehicles.

• When operating a motorcycle during inclement weather, slow down and use extra caution. Avoid sudden changes in direction or speed.

• Be cautious in construction zones watching for different pavement heights and drop-offs.

• Never ride impaired.

• Never perform stunts like “wheelies” or other tricks.

Motorcycles are harder to see than other vehicles; consequently, many crashes occur because other motorists don’t see the motorcycle. All motorists should take the time for a second look before pulling into an intersection or making a left turn. It only takes a second to take a second look and maybe save a life.

Get ISP News Sent to Your Computer or Phone

To receive traffic and road closure updates, as well as ISP news at the same time the media receives it, just follow the directions below.

• Visit the Indiana State Police website at <http://in.gov/isp/>

• Once at the ISP Site you will see the words “Stay Connected” half way down the page with a box to enter your email address.

• Enter the primary email address where you would like to receive ISP News Releases

• This process can be completed for as email addresses as desired

Follow the intuitive prompts to complete registration and select any or all of the ISP locations from which your media organization would like to receive ISP News Releases

• You will receive a confirmation email from GovDelivery if your setup was successful. If you have ANY problems signing up for GovDelivery, please call the GovDelivery support phone number **800-314-0147** during normal business hours Monday thru Friday, Eastern Standard Time, and tell them you are trying to subscribe to the Indiana State Police GovDelivery account.

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Wayne County Veteran Services Office



Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits and Programs

The veterans in Indiana and our Indiana Legislators have failed at some point to get the funding for veterans that is available to veterans in Ohio. Ohio veterans benefit from a county tax levy that provides County Commissioners with money to fund many veteran programs. Without that tax money in Indiana our counties just can't provide the same services. Many counties in Indiana must depend on the DAV Transportation Network of volunteers to transport veterans to VA hospitals and some counties can only afford a part-time service officer to assist our veterans. So most of the benefits available to us are provided through the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA). Many veterans are not aware of what is available to us through the State of Indiana. The IDVA has a very helpful and informative website at <https://in.gov/dva>. There is a special COVID-19 Family Relief Fund available for those veterans in need during our current crisis. The following is a list of some of the benefits available:

Military Family Relief Fund, Standard

Provides grants up to \$2,500 for qualified veterans whose current hardship is a result of their military service.



Military Family Relief Fund COVID-19 Special Application

Provides grants up to \$2,500 for qualified veterans whose current hardship is a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Removes the service dates and military connectedness from the original Military Family Relief Fund program. Must provide documented proof of COVID-19 impact, typically through an email or letter from the veteran's place of employment on official letterhead.



Other Benefits

Disabled Hoosier Veteran License Plate

For veterans with a service-connected disability rating of at least 30% for mobility issues, or for veterans that cannot walk without pain as a result of a service-connected disability, with physician verification.

Tuition and Fee Exemption for Children of Disabled Veterans, Children of Purple Heart Recipients, and Children of POWs

Remission of tuition and fees for children of disabled veterans (at least 0% service-connected) who served during a period of war or participated in equally hazardous duty, or the children of Purple Heart Recipients, or the children of prisoners of war. May only be used at approved state-sponsored universities for up to 124 credits.

Tuition and Fee Exemption for Purple Heart Recipients

Recipients of the Purple Heart are eligible to receive a tuition and fee exemption at state-sponsored schools for up to 120 credits.

High School Diploma for WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam War Veterans

No cost high school diploma for war veterans that left school to join military.

Hoosier Women Veterans Program

Hoosier Women Veteran Coordinator maintains a database of women veterans. Sends welcome packets to new or recently discharged veterans. Holds conferences around the state. Conducts outreach and coordination year-round.

Indiana Veterans Memorial and State Soldiers Home Cemeteries

Free burial for veterans and their spouses with perpetual care. Located in Madison, Indiana and Lafayette, Indiana respectively.

Indiana Veterans Home – Medical Care

Medical service for qualified veterans.

Indiana Veterans Home – Residential Housing

Housing and perpetual care for qualified service members and their spouses.

Peddlers, Vendors, or Hawkers License

Free license for honorably discharged veterans.

Property Tax Deduction for Veterans and Spouses of KIA

\$14,000 deduction for veterans that served during peace time or the surviving spouse of a serv-



ice member that was killed in action or died during active duty. Veteran must be totally disabled or must be 62 years old with a 10% service-connected disability rating. There is an assessed value limit of \$200,000.

Property Tax Deduction for Wartime Veterans

\$24,960 deduction for wartime veterans with at least a 10% service-connected disability rating. There is no assessed value limit for this benefit.

Property Tax Combination for Certain Disabled Wartime Veterans

A veteran who served during a period of war and is at least 62 years old with a 10% service-connected disability rating OR has a permanent and total service-connected disability rating at any age AND whose home's assessed value is \$200,000 or less, can receive both property tax deductions for a total of \$38,960.

Residential Veteran Hunting and Fishing License

Reduced fee for veterans with a service-connected disability rating.

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Misfires & Snags



by Dan Graves

Ain't Living In The Midwest Fun?

Those of us who are fortunate enough to reside in the mid west don't have much to do. There are no mountains to climb or ski down. No beaches to frolic on, or vast forests, deserts, or sky blue lakes to soothe our souls. In the spring we plow the fields and plant corn. During the summer we sit on the back porch and watch it grow. Fall comes around and we harvest the crop. During the winter we sit at the front window and hope a car comes by to break the monotony. We drive pickup trucks with bumper stickers that say "This Is Not An Abandoned Vehicle" and for some of us a Saturday night's entertainment is watching demonstration films on the t.v. sets at Walmart.

In spite of a life style that is, by comparison, like working on a night crawler farm, we have forms of entertainment that sets us apart from the jet set world. Let the rest of them have their seasonal playgrounds, bikinis, and flashy sports cars. We have HORSE TRADING, AUCTION BARNS, and YARD SALES.

Horse trading probably originated, just as the name implies, when two people, each with what was once a horse, decided to follow the golden rule of "Do unto others before they do unto you". Each con-

testant considers the others horse to be about as valuable as a stack of broken bricks, but hopefully have something else to throw in as a bargain. The rules are simple. Find a courthouse lawn bench on a warm Saturday afternoon, sit and watch traffic for a while and then ease into the bargaining with as much finesse as possible. A normal session would be as follows:

Clem: "That 'ol nag of yours still eatin' you into bankruptcy?"

Lem: "You talkin' about my lead plow horse or my mother-in-law?"

Clem: "I'm talkin' about that thing that looks like a four legged display of cheap carpet samples with a worn out mop leanin' agin' it".

Lem: "Don't look no worse than that thing you got. You ever consider puttin' a two-by-four down its back and using ropes to pull its belly up to keep it from draggin' the ground?"

Clem: "Tell you what I'll do I'll trade that fine animal of mine for yours if you'll throw in that rusty old shotgun the mice are using for a summer home."

Lem: "I'll just bet you would. That horse of mine has thoroughbred blood and that shotgun is a fine European fowling piece. I'll trade my horse for yours and that mangy thing you call a coon dog."

Clem: "Thoroughbred? More like thorough dead. Your right about that shotgun being a fowling piece. It fouls up every time you shoot it."

And so it continues until someone gets skinned, but finer entertainment can't be found outside a Tennessee mule auction. Which brings us to the second form of entertainment which is near and dear to the hearts of mid-westerners, the Saturday night auction sale. To some, an auction is like a black hole in space. If you got within two blocks of it, you're sucked in like a carpet ant into a vacuum cleaner. You roam around all the merchandise hoping to find that diamond in the rough. Finally, there it is, that one of a kind chrome plated left handed bottle opener that's priceless to bottle opener collectors. Taking your seat, you vow to sell your grandmother into slavery before you'll let that gem escape. Assuming your best "I don't give a hoot for anything here"

look, you wait for the chosen item to come up for bids at which time you'll signal with a slight nod of the head or a twitch of a finger. Then the inevitable happens. Just as a rusty old cannon ball comes on the block, a fly finds your nose as a landing strip and begins strolling around, its scratchy little feet touching every nerve in your proboscis. It refuses to be blown off and continues its march while tears come to your eyes. Out of desperation you lower your head, hoping to trap the little demon between your knees and avoid buying a cannon ball. Meanwhile, while you're distracted, the auctioneer throws the bottle opener in with the cannon ball hoping to spur the sale and an Amish farmer becomes the proud owner of your desire. You finally buy an ax handle even though you don't have an ax and swear to stay away from these dens of inequity. Until next week.

Last but not least is that symbol of American ingenuity and free enterprise, the yard sale. Someone, no doubt to their surprise, found a profitable way to transfer all their worthless junk from the basement and garage to someone else by preying on the old phrase "One mans junk, another mans treasure" and the word spread like fleas in a dog pound. My wife and I, during the summer months, engage in revolving inventory shopping. The way I see it, the stuff we buy this week will be sold at our sale next week, only to re-appear in another sale in a month or next year, thus keeping the same junk on the road forever. I could swear I've seen an old orange juice squeezer with a chipped edge five times over the past two years in three different counties. These outdoor variety stores attract crowds faster than a dinner bell on a hog farm. Out of bed at 5 a.m. on Saturday and armed with the classified ads, glassy eyed shoppers take to the streets in search of a bargain. Tables sit in driveways filled with everything from worn out mouse traps to Christmas decorations that look like they somehow managed to survive the bombing of London in WW2. But what the heck. Who wants to shop for anything worth more than to clutter up the garage until you can put it up for sale next year? What other forms of entertainment do we have here in the Midwest? ■

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

capture area.

- All vendors must use vinyl or plastic table covers, or fore go table coverings altogether, for easy sanitizing

- All vendors will clean and regularly disinfect all "high-touch" surfaces such as tabletops, cash registers, counters, and hand washing sinks

These guidelines were developed in consultation with recommendations from the CDC, Indiana State Department of Health, and Wayne County Health Department, in addition to thorough research into current best practices in place in farmers markets around the state and country.

"We're very excited to open back up and serve the public" said Caleb Smith, Market Coordinator. "We hope everyone will be patient and understanding as our vendors and staff adjust to our new procedures, and we thank everyone in advance for

their support of local farmers during these uncertain times."

Customers are highly encouraged to continue to use the new Online Farmers Market, which will be available throughout the summer. Found online at farmersmarket.richmondindiana.gov, customers can order products from any vendor signed up through the platform, and choose from options such as delivery, pickup, no-contact hand-offs, and more. Payment can also be made online, eliminating the need for any unnecessary contact for both customer and vendor. Orders can also be placed over the phone by calling (765) 983-7425 during business hours.

As the Richmond Farmers Market gears up for the season, the Reid Double Dollars SNAP program is still available for customers and vendors to utilize. This program allows anyone who receives SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps) to have their money doubled when shopping at the Market. Customers must purchase

SNAP tokens from the Market Coordinator, which can then be spent with any SNAP eligible vendor.

If community members have any questions about the Richmond Farmers Market, the Reid Double Dollars program, or the Online Farmers Market, they are encouraged to visit richmondindiana.gov/resources/farmers-market or to reach out by emailing richmondfarmersmarketIN@gmail.com or by calling 765-983-7425.

For questions, imagery, or for media requests, please contact the Richmond Farmers Market via the contact details below:

Caleb Smith
 Richmond Farmers Market Coordinator
 Richmond Parks and Recreation
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Breaking Down New Water

Fishing a new body of water can be the most intimidating element of fishing. Anglers, regardless of the fish species targeted, struggle with fishing new water more than any other aspect of the angling world. We see some of the best anglers launch their boats in a lake new to them and instantly lose all confidence in catching fish. In this article we are going to attempt to curb some of the intimidation that comes with a new lake.

First, before we get to the water, we need a preconceived notion to what part of the spawn the fish are in, prespawn, spawn, or post spawn. If we are fishing during the spawn or prespawn the fish are moving into shallow coves and we need to target those areas on the map. In the post spawn the fish are done spawning and moving toward the main lake for the rest of the summer. For example, if we are fishing locally in Indiana in June the fish are in the post spawn stages and we can eliminate shallow coves. In this stage we would target more main lake structure possibly even off shore structure. The goal here is to eliminate water on the map before you get to the lake.

Secondly, North? or South? We usually make this decision based on water clarity. The south end of the lake will have the clearest water. We will start on the south end of the lake and work our way north. Personally we are more comfortable fishing water with one to two feet of visibility. When first arriving at a new lake don't be too eager to fish right away. Giving the lake a quick ride around, knowing what is around the next corner can save you from wasting time fishing unproductive water. Nothing shrinks a body of water faster than a quick lap. Noting where the rock, wood, weeds, bluffs, and flats are as you cruise the lake will pay huge dividends after you catch your first couple fish.

Next, Cover water. We like to fish every lure we have confidence in, and some we don't, as fast and efficiently as possible. After we have narrowed down an area of the lake we like we will start by fishing points and main lake transition areas from deep to shallow. We will fish some rock, some wood, and



Haley Frame caught this 6 lb bass on a lipless crankbait on April 15th. (Author Photo)

some grass from 2-3 feet of water to 18 feet of water. Our goal is to fish every type of cover both deep and shallow in an hour. For us, two similar bites is a pattern. For example, if we catch 2 bass in 4 foot of water on a vertical stump on a windblown, shaded bank, on the main lake we have all the info we need for a good start on new water. This pattern means one of two things, either there are several bass on that particular stretch of bank, or the fish are on wood in 4 foot of water. Now we can either fish similar stretches or similar wood throughout the area and perhaps have a productive day.


Lastly, never be afraid to try new areas. Most anglers have trouble with the concept that there is no such thing as a bad idea. There are many days we have fished an area for two hours without a bite. Even though everything looked and felt right the bites were not coming. The worst thing we could do is fish the third hour doing the same thing. When we are struggling there are two options, continue fishing the same structure in a totally different part of the lake, or fish a totally different type of structure in the same part of the lake.




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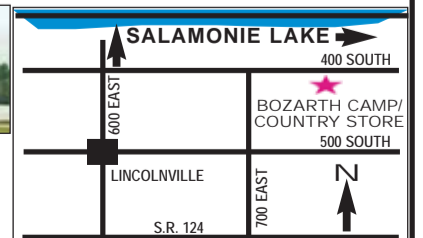
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Random Notes from:
Prairie Wolf Gun Repair



by **Marshall Smith**
 Gunsmith, NRA Life Member, Retired LEO



Top Left: The trigger group of the AK-74 in the article. The safety bar has the disconnecter and trigger bar locked in place and safe. Top Right: The safety bar has moved back and is clear of the disconnecter and trigger bar allowing the trigger and disconnect to work. Bottom: This is the disconnecter as used in a AK-74 or AK-47. (Photos by Author)

Gunsmithing a Single Shot AK-74 in 5.45 x 39mm?

A single shot AK? The owner was having a problem with his just purchased used AK-74 in 5.45x39 mm. The problem he described was that he would load the weapon and it would fire the first round but failed to load the second round and fire. That sounded like it was short stroking and not picking up the next round from the magazine.

Short stroking in a auto-loading firearm is when the bolt moves to the rear after firing and cocks the hammer and fails to go far enough to pick up the next round in the magazine. That is often caused by ammo that is under powered for its caliber. The ammo provided was Russian metal cased ammo in 5.45x39 and is usually dependable. If not the ammo it could be caused by a main spring being to heavy or is getting bound up during recoil. In a gas powered gun like the AK-74 the gas port may get plugged with unburned powder thereby reducing the amount of gas necessary for complete cycling of the bolt.

After field stripping the gun and cleaning the gas port another trip to the range and only fired one round. It was still a single shot. But, it had loaded the next round up but just didn't cock the

hammer. A check of the unfired round in the gun's chamber found a small dent in the primer. The dent was definitely large enough to be noticeable but not deep enough to ignite the primer. Strange.

The series of actions the auto-loading AK-74 and AK-47 guns is that upon firing the bolt is forced out of battery by the power of the gas piston and moves back cocking the hammer and pushing the hammer down far enough to get captured by the disconnecter which holds the hammer in place until the trigger is released at which time the disconnecter releases the hammer and the hammer is then captured by the sear and held in place until the trigger pulled again. While the hammer is captured by the disconnecter, the bolt continues to the rear past the next cartridge in the magazine and then moves forward pushing the cartridge into the chamber and into battery ready for the next trigger pull.

At this point I knew that there was a problem with the disconnect. I was surprised with what I had found. The reason for the surprise was that I wasn't familiar with the make of the rifle. It was stamped on the receiver ITM Arms Cleveland, Ohio. It was also stamped 1990. I had not heard of this brand so I did an internet search and found nothing about the company. I did find several listings for ITM Arms guns for sale on GunBroker.com. Then I checked the AKForum.net and it turns out that ITM was another name for Ohio Ordnance Works, Inc. I had heard of Ohio Ordnance and most of what I had

heard was not flattering for the company.

After much testing and disassembly and reassembly I could see that the disconnecter was being blocked by the safety. A measurement of the disconnecter's tail showed it was too long and once under the safety bar it was trapped and couldn't capture the hammer after being fired. It essentially turned the gun into a possible slam fire automatic rifle. If the hammer spring had been heavier, it would empty a 30 round magazine in less than a second. Luckily the hammer spring wasn't strong enough.

To correct the problem the tail of the disconnecter had to be shortened about .025" and the safety bar's nose rounded so as to not engage the disconnecter when the safety was in the FIRE position. I don't know if this was a condition that originated at the time it was built, either by Ohio Ordnance or was a home build using their parts or a mixture of parts. Someone may have been trying to turn it into a select fire semi/full auto rifle and couldn't get the slam fire to work. As best as I could tell this was always a single shot AK. Well...not anymore.

Quote of the Month

In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years. Abraham Lincoln

That's all for this month. These notes are mine alone and do not represent the opinion or position of anyone, just me. If you have a question or a comment on guns, gunsmithing, gun rights, or, would like to just make a comment email me with your comments at PrarieWolfGuns@gmail.com. I'll answer your questions with the most up to date information available. Some answers may be included in this column as I'm sure there are others with the same question. No question dealing with guns or self-defense is a bad or stupid question. Only those not asked.

Remember, BSAR (Be Safe, Be Aware, Be Responsible)

Marshall Smith

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Indiana Outdoors



by Joe Martino

How to make the best Of your food plots

Food plots are quite common for deer hunting these days, nearly as common as the basic hunting tools such as stands and equipment for some hunters. For some, they take their food plots as seriously as any other item in their hunting repertoire. Everyone has visions of lush, green plots that deer just can't resist. The fact is though, that getting a food plot to look good and perform well can be tougher than the legwork of actually putting it in.

The first thing that needs to be done with any food plot is the select the location for the plot. Location is key, and can make a huge difference in how comfortable deer will feel visiting it. Size also plays a big factor when readying your plot.

In general, a smaller plot is just fine. Generally, a few acres of food plots per 100-acres or so of hunting ground is sufficient, but a single food plot that size is big, so sometimes planting a few smaller plots will be better. This will allow for more stand locations and give the deer options or target different deer on different areas of the property you are hunting. Sometimes, for one reason or another, the deer may prefer one plot over another, so having a couple is a good idea. Plus, for bowhunting, smaller is better so that regardless of where the deer are standing in the plot, they will likely be in range for a shot.

There's more to it than just throwing seed in the ground:

It's true, you can simply create a "throw-and-grow" food plot if you are in a budget or short on time. Sometimes they come up decent and will attract some deer. But if you have the chance, properly preparing the soil will go far in making your plot more attractive for the deer.

Tilling the soil well – a couple of times if need be – will help root out any stubborn weeds from popping back up after you have planted.

Soil testing and adding fertilizer are key if you want to get the most out of it. Otherwise, what you plant may not come up, or could be lackluster, and thus, have less drawing power for deer.

Play on a deer's likes:

Deer are edge creatures, so remember that when laying out your plot. For this reason, if you can, leave



Food plots can be a lot of work, but by putting in the research and effort, they can pay off in the fall. (Author Photo)



Keep the deer interested all season by planting a variety that will mature at different periods. (Author Photo)



Deer are edge creatures, be sure to leave an edge of wild cover. (Author Photo)



During winter deer will dig up and eat the turnip bulb itself. (Author Photo)

an edge of "wild" cover around the perimeter of it. If you have CRP or other types of grass, shrubbery or cover along the edge(s) of the timber between it and the plot, you will be doing yourself a favor. The deer will feel more comfortable entering a plot that is surrounded (at least partially) by some type of edge cover. They will feel more inclined to feed along the perimeter of the plot and not just in the center of it and will be more likely to hang around longer and be more at ease in it.

A plot in an open wooded area can also be quite effective and can attract deer without making them come out into the open. Such plots can be good, not only in more heavily forested areas, but also in smaller woodlots adjacent to agricultural fields. They can serve as the perfect staging area for deer to browse or the perfect place for them to grab a bite and stretch during daylight hours close to their bedding areas. Just remember, most plots will need at least 50% sunlight in order to grow adequately. A nice open area or clearing inside a wooded area should provide that.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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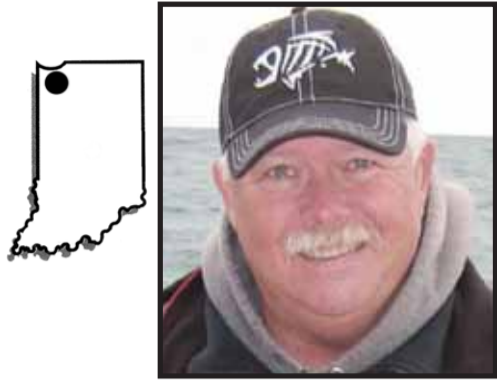
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Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

Is An Electric Boat In Your Future?

Every professional bass fisherman and inland lake walleye guide has an electric motor on his or her boat. So do millions of other anglers fishing for anything from sunfish to sailfish in some areas. So when I titled this column about electric boats being something in the future, it was with the full realization, the



This electric powered boat opened many eyes at the Miami boat show recently. (Author Photo)

future is now and has been for some time, at least for some boaters.

I'm not talking about electric "thrusters," bow mounted to position anglers close enough to target areas to make accurate casts. I'm talking about boats which head out for extended cruises with no sails or petroleum powered engines to get them where they need to go.

Though there are hundreds of "boat shows" across the country held each year, The Miami International Boat Show is the biggy. It's what the Oscars are to the entertainment industry, Daytona is to NASCAR fans. It's the first big show of the new "boating season" and the place when new models, new gear, new "anything boating" is often premiered and spotlighted. One headline I saw announced: Electric Boats "Take Charge" at Miami International Boat Show.

When electric "trolling" motors were invented they were designed to be clamped on the transom alongside or in place of the ol' Evinrude on a person's fishing boat. Within a few years, fishermen and electric motor makers figured out they worked best on the bow and most models, these days, don't even offer a stern mounting option.

Fifteen years ago, a company called Torqeedo pioneered an effort to put electric propulsion back on the stern, not as a fishing aid, rather as an alternative to gasoline powered outboards. Fifteen years ago a combination of the certainty about the environmental affects of petroleum powered motors and the uncertainty of relying mostly on crude oil from the war-torn Middle East, made investing in and inventing alternatives a promising venture.

Torqeedo started modestly with one-horsepower and three-horse models. These were not speed demons, by any means, but existing electrics were measured in pounds of thrust, not in "horses" of thrust. Those early models were successful - still are - but electric outboards are now available up to 80 horsepower in retail markets and there's a Swedish

company with a 150 hp prototype soon to go into production.

Additionally, working in the marine industry gave the Torqeedo designers and engineers the ability to design and invent under the radar of governmental interference as was happening in the electric "land" vehicle market. Reliance on government grants to fund R&D efforts, government regulations, as well as lobbying by "traditional" vehicle manufacturers against electric vehicles resulted a slow, almost one step forward, two back, struggle to get highway e-vehicles on the market profitably. Not so on the water.

There are no government subsidies available for nautical electric power makers, or incentives to convince consumers they should buy them. It's strictly market driven innovation and the results were evident at Miami in February.

Visitors to the Miami show could get on board a 44 ft. power catamaran refitted with Torqeedo's Deep Blue Hybrid system which, like hybrid land vehicles, integrates electric engines powered by hi-tech batteries which can be charged by conventional chargers, on-board solar arrays as well as an on board diesel generator, as needed.

Want something more "fish-worthy?" Zin Boats debuted a 20-foot runabout, totally electric powered, which can hit 35 miles per hour at top speed and can travel 100 miles on a charge at cruising speeds. Most fishermen don't have a need to travel more than 35 mph, (on the Great Lakes, the conditions to safely or comfortably go that fast are rare) and most boaters seldom go more than 100 miles on any one fishing trip.

Like electric automobiles, the current initial price for electrically powered outboards or boat is two to three times what a conventional unit costs, but as technology develops for better motors and batteries, that cost is coming down. So to answer the to the question in my column title for many of you is: YES!

THE END

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Some of the Metamora Duck Creek Crossing Merchants, Christmas 2018. (Author Photo)



Glenwood UMC. (Photo by Chris McDivitt)

Rambling In The Fields



by Beverly Spurlin

The Value of Community

When I was a child growing up on a farm in eastern Indiana, we considered neighbors to be anyone living within a five mile radius. Our farm was secluded enough that although we could see other houses from our place, to actually see another person would require getting in the car and going to town. Now town could mean anything from going down to Holland's service station or to Lockwood's grocery store in Glenwood. If we were lucky enough to be working with our dad or grandpa that day, we might even get to go up to Falmouth Farm Supply where we always got a bottle of soda and a candy bar, but we also got made over by the employees who made comments about how lucky dad and grandpa were to have such good helpers. We were around six or eight at the time, but we knew we were the lucky ones to be included in such a fantastic field trip.

Our neighbors made up our little community. We were primarily a farming community. Our families shared resources such as tools and equipment, sometimes labor and harvests. We sold or traded eggs and honey with our neighbors. Sometimes, someone would buy a market-ready hog from our herd for meat for their freezer. We would drive to Rushville to buy milk from a dairy farmer. We went to church with many of our neighbors. Our husbands and fathers fought fires

and responded to medical emergencies because many of them were volunteer firemen. We spent a lot of time with our church family. My mom sang in several choirs and music groups. My sister, brother and I were literally raised in the church, meaning not only was our development influenced by other members of the church, we physically spent quite a bit of time in the church building and on the grounds. Our pastor at the time had three boys about our ages and we had some adventures during the summers both in and around the church and out on our farm. We enjoyed a closeness with people living and working towards common or at least similar goals. Our neighbors kept an eye on each other. I remember my dad watching out the window at cars driving suspiciously slow on the county line and taking off in his truck to make sure they weren't up to no good, or to see if they needed help. A neighbor's watchful eye is not all that welcome when you're a 15 year old kid trying to exert some independence, inappropriately. I had another parent call my mom one evening to report on my activities before I even made it home. Although I was unhappy about the neighbor's intrusion at the time, these types of interventions keeps people accountable. I remember after that experience being encouraged to do something I ought not be doing and the first thought that came to mind was "I wonder which one of you is watching me and will report to my mom?" I declined participation in the prank because of my previous experience.

Our community as adults may look a lot different than the community we enjoyed growing up. As young adults, we migrate towards people who share a common vision, like college. We develop late night study groups, join sororities or fraternities, sports teams, or academic clubs. Moving on into our young adulthood, our community may become other parents of young children navigating their way through childhood illnesses, school functions, summers sitting on bleachers watching our kids play a sport. These communities are often formed more out of need than by design and they serve an important purpose. We can relate and sympathize with each other, offer support and the hope that they'll get through their trial because we got through a similar one.

When my husband, Scott and I became Metamora merchants, we became members of an amazing community of like-minded people. Our little family of merchants in the Duck Creek Crossing section have shared Christmas dinner and Fourth of July cookouts. We share a common vision; to make Metamora as vibrant and vital as possible and to help each other be successful in our businesses. We don't always agree on how that will look or even be accomplished, but I truly believe that every person wants the best for Metamora. Some of us have only been merchants for a few years, but have decades of memories of past Christmas Walks and Canal Days as kids. Other merchants have over 30 years of memories and experiences as shopkeepers and so much wisdom and experience to offer. Metamora gets in your blood like this and won't let go of you.

Until very recently, one of the things members of our communities have had in common was physical proximity to one another. There's something about meeting with folks face to face, sharing a meal and laughing, or comforting someone in the midst of grief by sharing a hug or sitting with them. The COVID-19 crisis has taken this away from us, temporarily, but many of us are feeling the impact of being isolated from our community, sometimes even from our families. There's an effort by many who have the ability to connect via technology to preserve those commu-




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Aerial view of McDivitt Family Farm, Glenwood IN. (Photo by Chris McDivitt)



The 1/2 mile gravel lane makes for an isolated rural upbringing. (Photo by Chris McDivitt)

ities. I have several friend groups who make a point to connect on a regular basis via Zoom, a video conferencing platform. We can all participate, hear and see each other and stay up to date on how each other are doing with the challenges of working from home, or not working at all because we are not essential staff, or our jobs disappeared suddenly. I worry about those who have not had this opportunity to stay connected. Maybe you are one of those who is struggling with not having the neighborhood coffee shop to connect with neighbors. Or your church was your main support system and there's been no weekly service for you to attend. Or you live alone and are afraid to allow family and friends to visit out of fear of being exposed. If this rings true for you, I encourage you to reach out to a friend or family member by phone. Ask for help getting connected with technology so that you can participate in video chats with friends and family. My 78 and 80 year old parents recently joined a Zoom family get together for Easter and were able to see all their children and grandchildren. I guarantee someone in your circle will know how to get you connected. It will take a smart phone or a device such as a desktop, laptop, or tablet with a camera, but all of those are available for a reasonable cost.

If you are someone who is staying connected with your community and feels confident about helping others connect, reach out to folks you

know are isolated and may be struggling. Community is so important to our mental health and development as compassionate, caring people. We were not created to be solitary creatures. We were created to be part of a family, a tribe, a community. We need that contact with other people to inspire us, to keep us sane and grounded. A dear friend of mine who has a down-homey way of describing life puts it this way, "We need to bump up against other people. It's how we knock off our sharp edges." Of course it sounds even more endearing with her southern accent, but I really like the message in that statement.

Think back on all of the people in your life who have inspired and influenced you. Our childhood friends, our mentors, our next door neighbors, they have all had a small piece in putting together

the puzzle of who we are. This COVID-19 crisis has taught me how much I crave interaction with other people and how important they are in my life. I'm a work in progress, as are we all. I need my community to interact with, to knock off my sharp edges. Our state is beginning to re-open as I write this article. This will hopefully be over one day soon, and we can go back to sitting down at the table and sharing a cup of coffee with a neighbor. We will again be able to attend festivals and events with dozens or even hundreds of other people without the fear of getting sick. Until it feels safe for you to do all those wonderful things, please find ways to stay connected to people you hold dear. Let this be the lesson we learned from COVID-19. ■

Indiana Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Mix it up:

One of the very best things you can do to attract deer to your food plot(s) and keep them interested all season long is to plant a variety of different foods in them. Be sure to plant ones that will mature at different periods of time so that as one type of forage is maturing and ready to be eaten, there are others that are still just beginning to grow. In doing so, you will attract deer early and get them interested so that it becomes a part of their routine, but as they eat off the early sprouting plants, others will be just maturing and becoming ready. This will keep them interested in for the entire season. Be sure to plant at least a few different offerings that will all mature at different times.

These can either be mixed together when planting, or it can be a bit more elaborate than that if you wish; you could plant the different species in strips. As one strips dies off or is eaten, the next strip will be maturing.

Don't have the time or money to get so elaborate with too many varying species? Then consider certain plants, like turnips for example. During the early season, deer will eat the tender, luscious leaves of the plants and during the winter (as they have eaten most of the leaves) they will dig up and eat the turnip bulb itself. Planting such crops will help in cases where you can't plant three or four different

types of forage.

Plan for extremes in weather:

Planting blends or mixes is never a bad idea, especially when extremes in weather can do your plot in if you only have one thing planted. A blend of different seeds can protect you from drought, heavy rains and the like. In dryer years or a season of near drought, certain plants in the mix with deeper roots will fare better and still grow meaning your plot isn't a total bust, while in wetter seasons, those in the mix with shorter roots will thrive. Planting a blend helps ensure that no matter what, your plot will at least have something to offer the deer.

The advantage of a blend over planting three or four different seeds or strips is that it allows you to do so in a smaller area and is usually less expensive than buying three or four different seeds and planting them individually. Blends also take the guesswork out of what varieties to plant. Most of them already contain different seeds that will each perform in varying climates, so you don't have to think about it.

Conclusion:

Getting it right when planting a food plot doesn't have to be hard, but it will take a little thought and planning to be done right. Consider the things mentioned here to maximize your plot's effectiveness and drawing power from the first day of season to the last. ■

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Dolphins riding the wake beside our boat near Ft. Myers, FL. Missed that trip this year. (Susie Creason photo)



Blue Bank Resort on Reelfoot Lake in Tennessee. We may try to schedule some fishing there if they are open. (Author photo)

Outdoors



With Rich Creason

Living in a Different World Today

I have been writing a story for the Gad-A-Bout magazine every month for over 20 years. That's over 200 stories about hunting, fishing, travel, metal detecting, gold panning, dinosaur hunting, and much more. During the last two months, my life (and most other folks) has been different, and this article is not my usual story. Hopefully, by next month, things will be back closer to normal.

As I write this story, I think about what I had planned for this week BV (Before Virus). We were supposed to be on the east coast of Florida visiting one of Susie's brothers. While there, I had offers from a writer friend of mine who is a charter boat captain in the Sunshine state. He was going to take us freshwater fishing one day, and then, saltwater the next day. It has been many years since I have enjoyed fishing for unknown species in the Atlantic Ocean.

While on our trip south, I was also planning on hitting the beaches with my metal detector. While I have never personally found any Spanish coins from sunken wrecks while searching this sand, I have read a lot of stories about those who have. I have been fortunate to find several pieces of gold and silver in the form of lost jewelry while detecting this beach. Unfortunately, I will not have a chance to do that this year.

We had plans to visit western New York to go fishing in June. I don't think that is going to happen either. Late summer, my calendar says we will be

trying our luck against some big species in the waters of Minnesota and Ontario. With the Canada border still closed at this time, that trip may be canceled also. By the time our writer's conferences are scheduled this fall, things should be open again and hopefully, our trips to Michigan and West Virginia will go on as expected.

Since all the wild game (and fish) in my freezer is gone, and I'm not out replenishing any of it at this time, we had to start buying meat in the grocery store. Sticker shock! Hamburger was over \$4 a pound. Chicken was slightly cheaper, but now, it is hard to find in the store. So, we reverted to the old days. I called Rihm's Meats and ordered a half of a beef. It is being butchered to our specifications, and I figured the cost of all the meat would also be around \$4 a pound, but not only is this the burger, but also steaks, roasts, and all the rest. Hopefully, they will call in a couple days and tell me to come pick it up. It's not venison, but it will still taste good on the grill.

Things in my kitchen have also changed. I had to relearn how to thaw food from the freezer and fix it at home. For the past few years, we have had our lunch and dinner at local restaurants about five days a week. I didn't have to cook, clean dishes, and we were able to just sit down and let someone else take care of us. With the new guidelines, all of our eateries are closed, or just available for carry-out. We don't do take out often, but still support our local pizza and Mexican restaurants a couple times a week.

Since we are regular customers at several dining establishments, our waiters and waitresses know us well, will see us coming through the door, and have our drinks on our tables, and usually just ask if we want our regular order. When the businesses closed down, many of these servers lost their jobs, hopefully just temporarily, but we are told the Ruby Tuesday in Anderson will not be reopening. Several of the servers there were actually students of my wife in grade school. Many have young kids at home and their income just stopped. So, every Monday, I have an envelope in which I put the tip money I would normally leave at the restaurant for that week. (And I am a big tipper.) When the business reopens, I plan on giving this special surprise to our servers. While it doesn't help them recover all their lost wages, it

will let them know we have been thinking about them in the last months. If everyone who is a regular at a restaurant would put some tip money back for their servers, it would be a great way to help those who are struggling to get by at this time.

Since we are on lock down, we go to the grocery once a week during "old people" hours, visit the pharmacy to pick up my medicine, and get our pizza and Mexican. That's about the only time the truck leaves the driveway. We do try to walk a mile a day in the nearby neighborhood if the weather is decent. But, that still leaves me a lot of down time in the house.

So, I head for the kitchen. Not to get food to eat. Just to get out my recipes and bake up some goodies. Mostly desserts. Since I am diabetic, I can't eat these sweets, but I share them with those who can. I make cookies, cakes, and other special treats for all the staff at the CVS pharmacy in Pendleton. These girls are extremely helpful when answering questions about my diabetic supplies, insurance problems, and ordering needed items which are not in stock. I take a lasagna size pan full of their favorite desserts (I take requests) to them every week. I take another pan to the Hacienda Vieja in Pendleton to treat all of our favorite staff there. (Not only do they take special care of us when dining there, but they are also teaching us Spanish.) I try out new recipes on our next door neighbors. I feed them desserts and he cleans my gutters, power washes my equipment, and helps with other chores which are getting too hard for me to handle easily.

While I would much rather be fighting some deep sea monster right now, I realize I am a lot better off than a lot of other folks out there. We are still healthy (more or less), and our income hasn't suffered much yet. We pray for those who are not that fortunate.

The author may be reached at eyewrite4u@aol.com.



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Author on dock at Lake of the Woods resort in Minnesota. (Photo by Susie Creason)

News of Native American Indians in Indiana



by Shirley Willard
Fulton County Historian, Rochester, Indiana

New book about Potawatomi Trail of Death

“A Perilous Journey” is a new book by George Godfrey, Citizen Potawatomi, which traces the Long Walk (now known as the Trail of Death) backwards from Kansas to Indiana. It tells the story of Sinagaw, a Potawatomi man, who is searching for his wife Kobunda and their baby. When John Tipton and the Indiana militia rounded up the Potawatomi at Chief Menominee’s village near Plymouth, Sinagaw was among those taken at gunpoint on the Long Walk of 660 miles to Osawatomie, Kansas. Kobunda fled north to Chief Pokagon’s village and thus avoided the forced march.

This is a fictional account that is made very accurate as to geography, with names of actual towns and rivers on the way. The Potawatomi were marched through Rochester on the Michigan Road to Logansport, which served as a gathering point for all those rounded up for the removal. The Long Walk was from September 4 to November 4, 1838.

After arriving in Kansas, Sinagaw escaped from the Reservation and started walking back to Indiana to find his wife. It was winter so his long

walk was through snow and across frozen creeks, the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, the Great Plains of Illinois with no trees, and the woodlands of Indiana. He camped out most of the time, but sometimes was given shelter in cabins by kind folks.

Sinagaw was helped by many friendly people who saw the Indians being marched west. Most of the white people felt sorry for the Indians and were willing to help Sinagaw in his struggle back to Indiana to find his wife. A few were mean and one even sic’ed his dog on Sinagaw.

Sinagaw froze his toes so they turned black and had to be chopped off with an ax. This made it difficult to walk. He limped across the ice and snow and never gave up.

Godfrey traveled the Trail of Death route seven times with our caravan in 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013, and 2018. He also led a group of Mennonites on the Trail of Death in 2017. (?? which year?)

George and I were partners in organizing the Trail of Death caravans, retracing the original route as near as we could figure it on modern roads and highways. We used William Polke’s diary from the 1838 removal. Polke was the federal conductor on the 1838 removal. His white house was moved the Fulton County Historical Society grounds.

Polke’s diary gave the names of towns they went through and recounted various incidences that happened to the group. I wrote articles about each caravan which were published in the Rochester Sentinel shortly after each caravan. The caravans consisted of cars, trucks and campers following the Trail of Death route the week after the Trail of Courage Living History Festival in late September.

People dropped into the caravan and drove with us across their county or as far as they wished. About 30 people went all the way from Menominee’s statue south of Plymouth to eastern Kansas.

The book, “A Perilous Journey” has a soft cover, 130 pages and sells for \$12.80, which includes shipping and tax. Send check to Nishnabek Publications, 24108 Burr Oaks Lane, Athens IL 62613.



Susie detecting beach. Was it gold, silver, or trash. I don't remember. (Author photo)



These fish are why we like to fish northern waters. They look just as great in the skillet too. (Author photo)

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

SHOOTING RANGES REOPENING

Starting the week of May 18, most DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife-owned shooting ranges will begin to reopen.

All facilities will be following COVID-19 social distancing and cleaning requirements. Restrictions will reduce the number of recreational shooters on the shooting ranges at a given time.

Atterbury Fish & Wildlife Area’s shooting range will open by appointment only May 15-17 and resume normal operating hours the week of May 18. Shooters wishing to schedule an appointment should call 812-526-6552.

All other FWA shooting ranges, except the one at Willow Slough FWA, will reopen starting the week of May 18. Shooting range hours differ between ranges. Check open days and hours before visiting. Willow Slough FWA’s range will remain closed until further notice. Shooting range hours and information can be found at wildlife.IN.gov/3648.htm.

For the most up-to-date information on DNR’s response to COVID-19, including what is open and closed, visit on.IN.gov/dnrcovid19.

To view all DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

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INDIANA STATE PARKS OPEN
CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

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Baby rabbit eating, its mom was nearby. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)



Squirrel eating in an evergreen. (Gad-a-bout File Photo)



Fawn hiding in plain sight, but mom was nearby. (Gad-a-bout File Photo)



Indiana Bobcat not too happy with his situation. (Gad-a-bout File Photo)

Blue River Outdoors



by Steve Dake

LEAVE THEM ALONE!!!

With spring many wild animals have their young. Sometimes we want to take them home for pets. **NEVER MOVE IT OR ASSUME THAT IT IS AN ORPHAN!** Leave them alone. Here are a few species and when they are born.

Coyotes may pair for life. They mate in February, and a litter with an average of four to six

pups is born in a den in April. Dens may be located in a bank, rock outcropping, cave, or an enlarged woodchuck or rabbit burrow. Males help raise the pups and provide the female with food when pups are very young. Pups begin playing at the entrance of their den at 3- to 4-weeks old, and by 10 weeks they may leave the den completely. Pups learn to hunt during the fall and generally disperse before they turn 1 year old.

Cottontail rabbits breeding starts as early as January and continues through early March. About 28 days after mating, the young are born, given a quick bath by the female and placed in the nest. At birth, the young are furless, blind and weigh less than 1 ounce. Young rabbits grow fast. By the end of the first week, they have their eyes open, and by the end of the second week, they are beginning to leave the nest and feed on green plants. Litters may range from three to nine, with four or five about average. Although capable of having six litters each summer, the usual number is three or four. By 6 months, the young have reached minimum adult weight and are hard to distinguish from adults.

The white-tailed deer breeding season primari-

ly occurs in October and November. Fawns are born in late May or early June after 200-day gestation period. A doe in good condition will generally produce two fawns. At birth, fawns weigh 4 to 8 pounds; however they grow rapidly, doubling their weight in just two weeks. If you find a fawn leave it alone, rest assured its mother is nearby, and fawns will usually travel with their mother through their first winter.

Fox squirrels breed twice a year if conditions are right, in December/January and again in early summer. Fox squirrels average three pups per litter. Young are born in every month but December and January, and squirrels born in early litters may breed and produce young of their own in their first year of life. In eight to 12 weeks, young are weaned and begin to fend for themselves. Squirrels produce fewer offspring than other mammals but are more successful in rearing them.

Bobcats can technically breed year around, the vast majority of mating generally occurs in early spring during February and March with the young being born after a 62-day gestation period. An average litter of three kittens is born in April or May. The female may move the kittens to several

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different dens during the growth period

Raccoons mating occurs in January or February. Most raccoons are born in tree cavities. If tree dens are not readily available, a female may use abandoned barn lofts, rock outcroppings, ground burrows or even attics for dens. Litters are usually born in April or May and range in size from one to nine, although the average is four. By mid-June, most young raccoons accompany their mother on food searches and begin to learn survival skills.

We will have more species next month. Thank you for reading my article.

The Gun Den News

The Gun Den has a large selection of firearms in stock for you to look at or visit our website at thegundenonline.com for specials. We buy or do consignments on large firearms collections. We have lay-a-ways.

The Gun Den have a Shoot now Pay Later program. We have financing for our firearms and accessories. Come in and check it out.

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Now is a good time to give your personal and hunting firearm a good cleaning and inspection. We here at The Gun Den will clean and inspect it for you to keep it in top working order. Price vary on what needs to be done to it.

We also do written appraisals for personal and insurance purposes with pictures and information about the firearm.

The Gun Den also does hydro dipping which is putting a pattern on an object like gun stocks, 4-wheeler & auto parts, and anything that can be submerged in water. Price vary on size and what type of object.

Till next month we at The Gun Den would like to thank everyone for their business and support.

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

ENJOY YOUR INDIANA STATE PARKS INDIANA STATE PARKS OPEN

Indiana State Parks: What's Open

By May 15, our entrance gates will be back open at all properties, so bring your annual pass or plan to pay a daily gate fee. Nature centers, restrooms and trails are open for you to enjoy. Campgrounds, inns and cabins are tentatively scheduled to open on May 24. Subscribe for the latest info on what's open and closed at on.IN.gov/dnrcovid19. See you soon!



State Park Reservation Staff

CALL OUR RESERVATION STAFF

Did you know that when you dial

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ACCIDENTAL DISCOVERY - LEAVE IT LAY.

Have you ever been on a hike at your favorite Indiana State Park and come across something on the ground that catches your eye? Maybe you bend down to see what it is and find out it's a candy wrapper someone carelessly tossed aside. Maybe it's a discarded plastic water bottle. Or maybe you realize that it's something much more interesting: a historical artifact.

We appreciate you picking up any present-day litter you see, but historical artifacts found on state and federal lands are protected by law. What should you do if you find an artifact? There are three steps that you can take to ensure that you're not only following the law, but also helping to protect our precious cultural resources.

Step 1: Leave it where you find it. Don't pick up artifacts or dig to retrieve them. Artifacts are human-made objects. Examples include stone and metal tools, pottery, glass bottles, ceramics, buttons, etc.

Step 2: Take photographs and document the location. You can use your smartphone to get the GPS coordinates or simply mark the location on a property map. Do not move the artifact from where you found it. An artifact's placement can tell us a lot about the history of the object. If the object is moved, we lose that context.

Step 3: If you find something you think might be an artifact, please notify someone in the property office or nature center. Only a qualified archaeologist, with a permit, is legally allowed to evaluate and excavate artifacts from a site.

David Story Chain O'Lakes

David Story manages the Sign Shop at Chain O' Lakes. With Department of Correction offender labor, the Sign Shop supplies the entire Division of State Parks with wooden and plastic signs. He is also responsible for building maintenance, and new construction. Dave is the park's liaison with the Chain O'Lakes Correctional Facility on the park grounds. He interviews and fills the varied positions of the 25-man park offender crew.

Since 1995, he has held several positions, including Cabin Maintenance, Assistant Maintenance Technician, and now Sign Shop manager. David takes pride in working all posi-



DAVID STORY - CHAIN O'LAKES.

tions that serve property functions and patrons. He is a graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Science in Management. He is very active outside of work. He enjoys water sports, snow skiing, snowmobiling, hockey, football, and rugby. His favorite pastime is making memories with his family while camping in Indiana State Parks.

Prairie Songsters Grassland Birds

Make a comeback at Indiana State Parks

At the time of European settlement, Indiana rested on the eastern edge of vast grasslands called prairies. Though much reduced in size, grassland habitats support a diversity of plant and animal species, including birds.

In the absence of trees, grassland birds build their nests on the ground, hidden in the dense grass. Insects make up a large part of their diet. As a result, many grassland songbirds are migratory, heading south in the winter to find insects. Songs range from the insect-like buzz of the grasshopper sparrow to the sing-song call of the meadowlark (which was once described as sounding like "laziness will KILL you").

With the arrival of settlers, much of Indiana's native grasslands were converted to agriculture. Grassland bird populations declined. Birds such as the Henslow's sparrow became a Federally Endangered species.

Today, several Indiana State Parks manage and restore grasslands for birds and other species. Prophetstown, Potato Creek, Pokagon, Shakamak, Summit Lake, Patoka Lake and the Upper Wabash reservoirs manage grasslands. As a result, birds such as the Henslow's sparrow can once more be heard singing in their Indiana home.

Learn about Indiana's Grasslands for Gamebirds and Songbirds Program, managed by DNR's Division of Fish & Wildlife at wildlife.IN.gov/9467.htm.

Friends of McCormick's

Creek Good work and good community

McCormick's Creek State Park is lucky to have one of the most active Friends groups in the state. In 2019, Friends of McCormick's Creek raised over \$100,000 in monetary and in-kind donations

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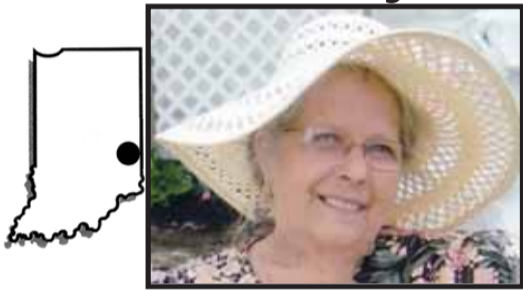


Clarke portrait in Canal House parlor in Connersville, Indiana. (Author Photo)



Close up of Thomas Clark portrait. (Author Photo)

Whitewater Valley History



by Donna Schroeder
Fayette County Historical Museum

A Family of Inventors & More

I have probably told you about one of my favorite Connersville born gentlemen - Thomas Clark (or Clarke). His portrait hangs in the Canal House parlor as our way of honoring a brave boy who grew up in an uncertain time.

Thomas was a son of Joseph and Deline Clark. His mother died at the time of his birth in 1839, and he was brought up by his father and older siblings. Deline's lonely grave at City Cemetery has always made me sad for her, as well as for her husband and children. After some research, I'm fairly certain that Joseph is buried beside her in an unmarked grave.

I wondered about the statement that Thomas returned from the war as an orphan. What became of his family? A little more research led to the will of his father, probated in 1864. Joseph H., Sr., according to his obituary, served as Fayette County Treasurer and Sheriff. He had come here from Pennsylvania, after stopping for a while to help plan the new city of Indianapolis. Another interesting fact is that, in 1834, he patented a 'Bedbug Destroying Machine'. What that may have entailed is lost to time, but it sounds dangerous!

The story of his son Thomas is well documented. At the age of thirteen, he joined the Minutemen, a local militia formed due to the

threat of attack by the Confederate troops led into Indiana by John Hunt Morgan. The age of enlistment was sixteen, but younger boys often put a piece of paper in their shoes with "16" written on it. When the recruiter asked if they were "over sixteen", they could - almost honestly - answer that they were. The militia disbanded after only ten days' service, and Thomas enlisted in the regular army as a musician. In his portrait, a flute lies on the table next to him.

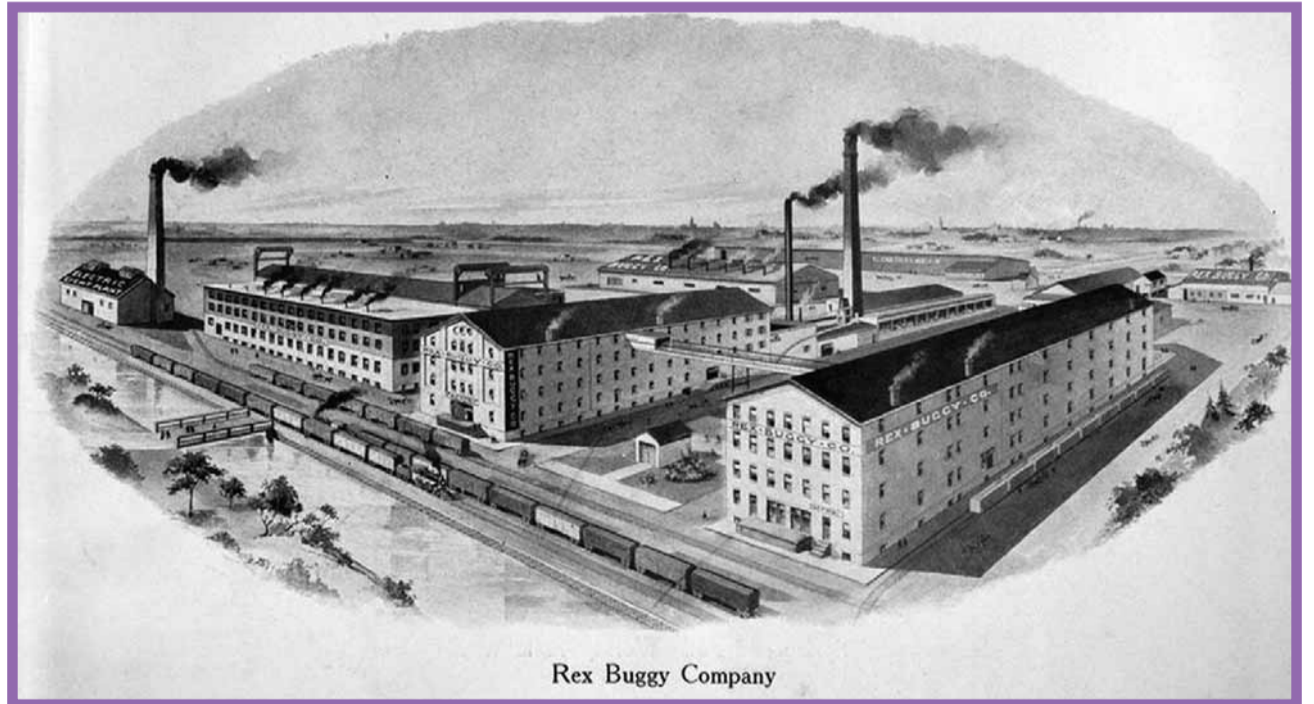
From all accounts, Thomas's military service was more exciting than that of some musicians. He was small for his age and could move undetected through enemy lines to carry messages. Although he wasn't strong enough to fire a weapon, he would run onto the battlefield and gather up the guns of mortally wounded soldiers and return them to the troops.

At the end of the war, accounts say that he returned to Connersville as an orphan and went out into the world to seek his fortune. While in the army, he had become fascinated with the telegraph, and that became his life's work, employed as a telegrapher and agent for the railroads. He

spent his last days in Pennsylvania where he is buried with his wife. Why Pennsylvania? Did he go there to be near members of his father's family or was it where his career took him? We will probably never know.

So, what became of the other Clark children? It seems that several of them relocated to Iowa, including Joseph, Jr. who was born in 1840, joined the Union Army, and became an aide to the doctors. He also attended medical school for a time. Returning to Connersville, he became a salesman for the Whitewater Valley Coffin and Silver Plate Company, a manufacturer that I had never known existed.

The coffin company was first mentioned in 1873 when notice was made of its startup. A little blurb said: "The White Water Coffin Company is the name of a new firm in this place. This company proposes to make coffins so cheap that it will be a pleasure to die". Something tells me the company probably didn't say that, given that the newspapers of that day took a lot of literary license at times and poked fun at their friends, as well as their enemies.

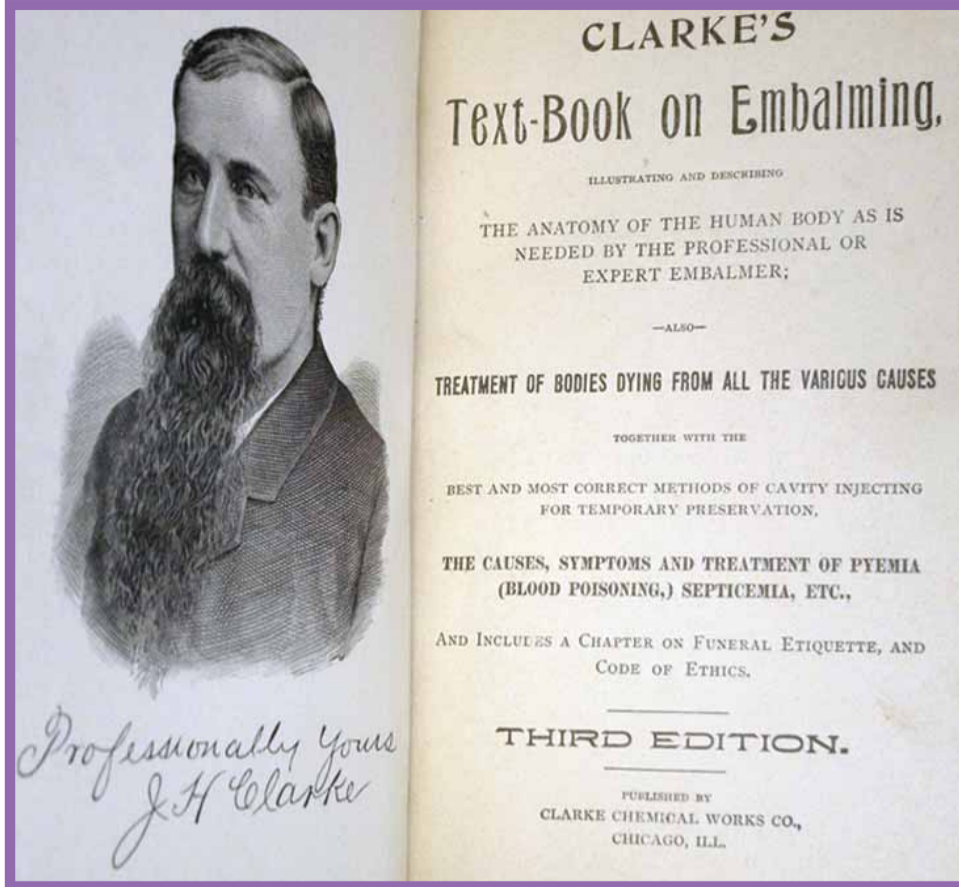


Rex Buggy Company

Munk & Roberts Coffins later became home of Rex Buggy. (Author Photo)

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Joseph Henry Clarke's 3rd Edition Text-Book on Embalming. (Author Photo)

Clark College of Embalming. (Author Photo)

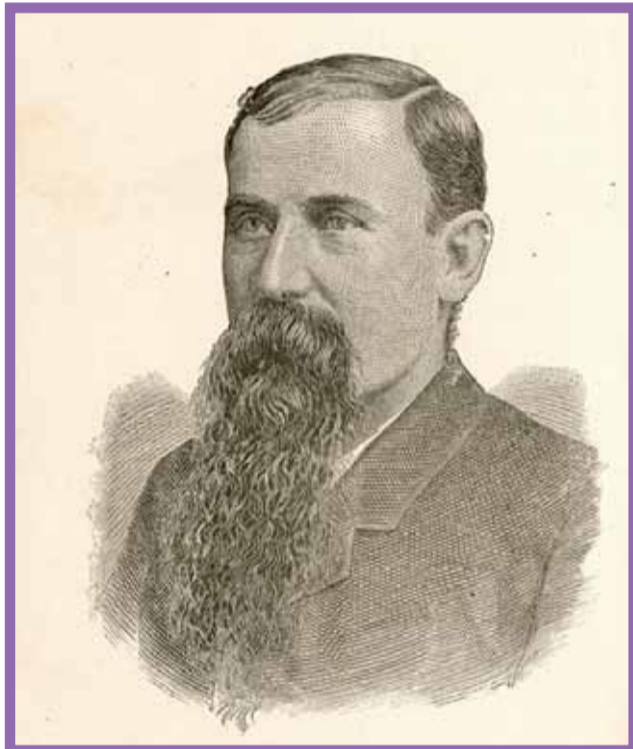
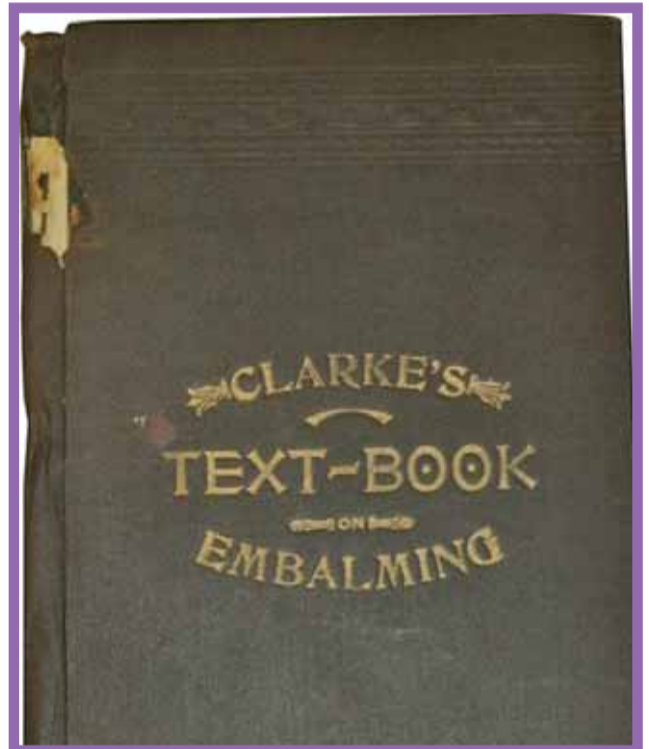


Photo of Joseph Henry Clarke. (Author Photo)



Pulte Medical college of Homeopathic medicine Cincinnati. Clarke's first class held here.



Close up of Thomas Clark portrait. (Author Photo)

The coffin company seems to have been very successful. It began business in 1873, and by the next year was offering additional stock to pay for another building. By 1880, there were two brick buildings, one of which was five stories high, as well as an additional frame building. The business was located north of the Munk and Roberts Furniture Company and the City Water Works on Western Avenue. If you are familiar with Connersville, this is just north of 12th Street, across from City Cemetery. At that time, the defunct canal that passed through town was still

there and provided power to the furniture company.

Sadly, a fire in 1880 put an end to the concern. Workmen reported that the wood shavings that were cast off into the furnace area ignited, and, within a short time, the buildings and most of the contents were gone. A crowd had gathered, and bystanders helped save some of the contents of the coffin company and plating facility. When the fire began to threaten the furniture company, attention passed to saving its products. The newspaper reported that furniture was passed from person to person and was put in the canal. It was then pulled from the canal on the other side and piled in the cemetery.

Munk & Roberts suffered some damage to their buildings, as did the Water Company, but the coffin factory was a complete loss. The products that were saved from the coffin factory were bought by

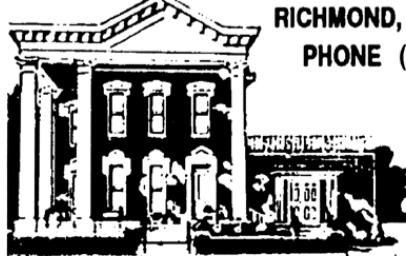
William Newkirk and others and moved to his furniture company on the south end of town, but the new company was never a success and went into receivership a few years later. The plating company also moved, under new owners, to the same neighborhood, but it also failed soon afterward.

But, back to the younger Joseph Clarke. While selling coffins, he realized that there was a need for improved techniques and products for embalming. His medical training was an asset to his understanding of the human body, and his experiences with deaths and early embalming procedures in the war had prepared him to start a new career.

He invented a line of instruments and embalming fluids and marketed them to morticians. He then formed the Clarke School of Embalming in partnership with several physicians. At first, they

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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Whitewater Valley History

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

traveled to cities like Philadelphia and New York, offering classes on embalming. The classes gained popularity as several states began to mandate that morticians had to be licensed.

Clarke authored several books which not only gave the procedures of embalming, but also offered advice on the more personal side of serving grieving families.

Eventually, he founded the Clarke School in Cincinnati, now known as the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. He retired in 1909, and is now known as "The father of American embalming schools".

So ends my tale of a father and two of his sons who made contributions to their community and their country in several areas.

During the current pandemic, our museum remains closed, but we hope to open in mid June. In the meantime, check You Tube for our videos of Canal House and the Fayette County Historical Museum. Look for History in Your Own Backyard. You won't see everything we offer visitors, but we hope it will make you want to come visit. There is one on our Courthouse and the City of Connersville, as well.

In the meantime, stay safe and be considerate of the safety of others. Hope to see you soon! ■

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

for the fire tower restoration. The group has restored the park's historic Peden springhouse; cleaned the CCC Rec Hall, allowing it to become a rentable shelterhouse; and assisted with construction of Centennial Cabin.

In addition to working on important projects, the Friends Group manages to have fun in an inviting atmosphere. Every month's general meeting is a potluck with an invited speaker. Friends volunteer at annual events and reconnect with people from Arts in the Park or BBQ & Blues. They work the booth at park festivals and invite more people to join. It's a wonderful community that has benefited Indiana's first State Park tremendously

To learn more about Friends Groups at State Parks and to find out how you can join visit: on.IN.gov/INStateParksFriends.

DNR SEEKS VOLUNTEER PADDLERS FOR WILDLIFE MONITORING

The DNR is asking paddlers to report their wildlife observations while paddling Indiana waterways from June 1 to July 31.

Paddling is a great way to enjoy Indiana's natural beauty, observe wildlife, and connect with nature, and DNR is hoping to collect more information about the wildlife that frequents Indiana's waterways. Hoosiers who paddle can collect information that will help Indiana manage wildlife for future generations.

The Indiana Paddlecraft Wildlife Index compiles wildlife observations from people who use canoes, kayaks, or other non-motorized paddlecraft around the Hoosier state. Volunteer paddlers

can help by signing up to complete paddling trip postcards documenting the wildlife they observe while on the water.

The collected information will allow wildlife managers to estimate changes in key wildlife populations over time. With paddlers' help, DNR may also gain insight into new locations where these species live.

Those interested can learn more or sign up to volunteer by visiting on.IN.gov/Paddlecraftindex.

To view all DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

VIDEO SHOWS HOW TO MAXIMIZE SAFETY DURING OUTDOOR FUN

Video shows how to maximize safety during outdoor fun

A new DNR video shows safety guidelines related to COVID-19 to follow during visits to DNR's public lands.

These guidelines include things like visiting parks and public lands close to home, wearing a mask and bringing hand sanitizer with you, washing your hands frequently, avoiding crowded parking lots and not parking on the grass, and practicing social distancing and "carry-in, carry-out" with your trash and other items you bring with you.

The video is on the DNR Youtube site at <https://youtu.be/2zWiGGGcm2c>, and will be posted on DNR social media sites over the next few days.

The video features Indiana State Park staff, and even a bald eagle, the resident educational ambassador that travels the state for programs with the team from Hardy Lake's Dwight Chamberlain Raptor Center.

Keep up with related information at on.IN.gov/dnrcovid19, on social media, and at property gates and bulletin boards.

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK CARRIES ADDITIONAL MESSAGE IN 2020
Boat Owners Association of **The United States**
5323 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22151
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

This Year, a National Safe Boating Week Like No Other.

Annual educational event carries additional message in 2020.

SPRINGFIELD, Va., May 13, 2020 – National Safe Boating Week, which begins this Saturday, May 16, and runs through Friday, May 22, is the traditional early boating season reminder to help recreational boaters embrace safety all season long. However, the important National Safe Boating week recommendation urging life jacket wear is now joined by an equally important boating safety message — how to stay safe during the time of COVID-19.

"While we're learning new things about the virus almost every day, we don't anticipate additional safety challenges on the water this year," said **BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water** President Chris Edmonston. "We have a responsibility to look out for all of us sharing a launch ramp, marina or boat club dock as well as those assigned to keep us safe on the water or entrusted with the care and maintenance of our boats."

THE BOATUS FOUNDATION OFFERS TWO NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK TIPS:

Do everything you can to social distance: **Boats should maintain a 50-foot separation on the water and not raft up; wash your hands and/or use sanitizer frequently; and pack all essentials.** Additional tips can be found at the **National Safe Boating Council's CDC-based Tips for Navigating Social Distancing + Boating.** The Marine Retailers Association of Americas offers boat storage facilities such as marinas, dealers or boat clubs a downloadable **Communicate Safe Boating to Your Customers** with tips for arriving at a marina, launching, storing and returning to the dock.

Your life jacket will save you. If there was one action a boater could easily take to dramatically increase safety aboard, it's wearing his/her life jacket more often. According to **U.S. Coast Guard statistics**, approximately 84% of those who drowned were not wearing one. "The best life jacket is the one you will wear," says Edmonston. **"Inflatable life jackets** are light, comfortable, keep you cool on a hot day, and are easily worn because you forget you are wearing one." Boaters also need to have a properly sized U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket for every person aboard, and can **borrow a child's life jacket for free at over 575 BoatUS Life Jacket Loaner Program sites.**

For more information on National Safe Boating Week, go to safeboatingcampaign.com.

###

Suggested Tweet and Facebook post:

.@BoatUSFoundation: National Safe Boating Week, May 16–22, carries additional message for 2020 #safeboating #wearit #realboaterswearit <https://bit.ly/3ctpLTn>

About the BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water:

The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is a national leader promoting safe, clean and responsible boating. Funded primarily by donations from the more than half-million members of Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS), the nonprofit provides innovative educational outreach directly to boaters and anglers with the aim of reducing accidents and fatalities, increasing stewardship of America's waterways and keeping boating safe for all. A range of boating safety courses – including 36 free state courses – can be found at BoatUS.org/Courses.

NRC TO CONDUCT MAY 19 MEETING VIRTUALLY

The Indiana Natural Resources Commission will conduct its next bimonthly meeting virtually on Tuesday, May 19. The meeting will start at 10 a.m. ET (9 a.m. CT).

The agenda and downloadable related materials as well as detailed instructions for participating are posted at nrc.IN.gov/2354.htm.

Members of the public can submit questions and comments to Scott Allen at sallen@nrc.IN.gov before 4 p.m. ET (3 p.m. CT) on May 18. Members of the public submitting questions or comments will be required to provide their first and last name and clearly identify the agenda item to which they are referring.

The NRC is an autonomous board that address-

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es topics pertaining to the DNR.

NRC members include the DNR director, heads of three other state agencies (Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Office of Tourism Development, and the Indiana Department of Transportation), six citizens appointed by the governor on a bipartisan basis, the chair of the DNR's advisory council, and the president of the Indiana Academy of Science. The Academy of Science president and the agency heads, other than the DNR director, may appoint proxies to serve the commission in their absences.

To view all DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

NEED FOR BLOOD DONATIONS RAPIDLY ESCALATES AS HOSPITALS RESCHEDULE SURGERIES

Need for blood donations rapidly escalates as hospitals reschedule surgeries

Versiti Blood Center of Indiana sees spike in need, particularly for O-negative blood

INDIANAPOLIS – Tuesday, May 12, 2020 – The need for blood donations has decreased over the past few months as hospitals have focused on the treatment of COVID-19 patients. But the need for blood has quickly shifted as hospitals resume surgeries and anticipate trauma cases to increase as safer at home orders are relaxed in some communities.

Versiti Blood Center of Indiana is seeking the generosity of Hoosiers across the state to donate life-saving blood to ensure hospitals have the necessary blood and blood products they need.

“The need is immediate,” said Versiti Vice President of Transfusion Medicine Dr. Dan Waxman. “These are extraordinary times and there has been a lot of uncertainty because of coronavirus. When dozens of blood drives were canceled in March and April because of the virus, we saw tremendous community outpouring at our donor centers. The need for blood donations has now spiked again.”

Versiti indicates a high need now for donations of O-negative blood, the universal blood type used in trauma situations.

To ensure ongoing donor safety, Versiti requires all employees and donors to wear cloth face coverings during their appointment. Donors are asked to bring their own face mask or covering if they have one.

Social distancing is being practiced at all Versiti donation centers and community blood drives. The temperature of each potential donor and all employees is being taken. Also, Versiti has implemented increased cleaning and disinfecting procedures at all donor centers and mobile donation sites.

Donating blood takes about an hour. Anyone age 17 or older in good health who meets eligibility requirements is encouraged to give. Parental consent is required for donors age 16 to donate blood. Donors should bring a photo ID that includes their birth date.

Appointments are encouraged at any of Versiti's seven Indiana donor centers and at any local community blood drive. Walk-in donors are welcome but may experience wait times. To schedule an appointment to donate blood, call 317-916-5150 or visit Versiti online at <http://www.versiti.org/Indiana>.

More than 90,000 Indiana residents each year

give blood through Versiti Blood Center of Indiana, formerly Indiana Blood Center, a non-profit organization founded in 1952 that operates blood donation centers in Indianapolis, Fishers, Carmel, Greenwood, Lafayette, Terre Haute and Highland. The center also operates thousands of mobile and community blood drives each year throughout the state. Versiti provides a continuous and safe supply of blood and biological services to more than 80 Indiana hospitals and their patients and beyond.

ABOUT VERSITI BLOOD CENTER OF INDIANA

Founded in 1952, Versiti Blood Center of Indiana, formerly Indiana Blood Center, is a non-profit organization and vital community resource dedicated to providing a continuous, safe and adequate supply of blood components and biological services to more than 80 Indiana hospitals and their patients and beyond. More than 90,000 Hoosiers donate life-saving blood each year. For more, visit versiti.org/Indiana.

DNR GIVES ADVICE ON MANAGING PRIVATE PONDS

Owners of private ponds and lakes can now find more resources for managing those areas and adding aquatic structures to them on DNR's updated website at wildlife.IN.gov/3614.htm.

Pond owners will now find information and links to content about pond construction, where to purchase fish to stock, nuisance wildlife concerns, fish kills and other common issues.

There are more than 40,000 private ponds and lakes in Indiana, many of which are stocked with fish by landowners and used for recreation. With spring weather, many are starting to think about their ponds and potential maintenance and improvements.

“The majority of questions we receive from private pond owners pertain to fish kills, advice on fish stocking, or aquatic plant management including nuisance algae,” said Corey DeBoom, DNR fisheries biologist for central Indiana. “The answers to most of the common questions can now be found on our updated pond management webpage.”

Information about constructing artificial habitat for ponds or lakes has also been added. Artificial structures can provide places for fish to hide, eat, or spawn and may help reduce impacts of fish-eating predators. Structures can be as simple as cutting and felling shoreline trees, but a variety of structure options are highlighted for pond owners to consider.

Questions from the public regarding private ponds or lakes can be answered by district fisheries biologists. Media questions regarding private pond management in specific regions can also be answered by district fisheries biologists. Contact information for your area's biologist is at wildlife.IN.gov/3590.htm.

For general questions regarding private pond management, contact Sandy Clark-Kolaks, south region fisheries research biologist, DNR Fish & Wildlife, **812-278-8303**,

SClark-Kolaks@dnr.IN.gov.

DNR PROPERTIES RESUME ENTRANCE FEES, REOPEN RIDING TRAILS AND RESTROOMS

Turkey Run, Shades and Indiana Dunes state parks, and Deam Lake and Starve Hollow state recreation areas will resume collecting entrance fees tomorrow. All other DNR properties will resume charging entrance fees no later than May 15.

A full breakdown of entrance and other fees is at stateparks.IN.gov/5062.htm.

Regarding other imminent changes:

Equestrian and mountain bike trails will open, for day use only, on Monday, May 11.

Day-use restrooms and vault toilets will open at DNR properties by May 15. Until then, guests should come prepared for restroom use to be restricted.

Nature Centers and historic facilities in state parks properties will open the week of May 11; however, hours may be reduced, and social distancing may limit the number of guests allowed in the respective facility at one time.

Marinas will open the week of May 11, with limited operations.

The Fort Golf Course is open, and the golf pro shop at Fort Harrison State Park reopens the week of May 11, with self-service cart rental available with a limit of one person per cart.

A complete status list for facilities and services at DNR properties is at on.IN.gov/dnrcovid19.

Guests at DNR properties should remember the following when visiting:

Practice social distancing at all times, particularly, as you hike, picnic or use boat ramps. Keep a minimum of 6 feet from other individuals you encounter, for your safety and theirs.

Keep your group size small – fewer than 25 individuals is ideal.

Bring your own drinking water and hand sanitizer.

If you picnic, bring and use a covering for your picnic table and take it with you when you leave.

If a parking lot is full, move to another location.

If you feel sick or are running a temperature, plan a visit for a different day for the safety of other guests.

SEEING MORE DEAD FISH DURING SPAWNING SEASON IS NATURAL

As water bodies warm and receive more hours of sunlight, Hoosiers may begin to notice more dead fish floating on them. This is a natural occurrence.

Warmer water temperatures are triggering spawning activity for many of Indiana's native fish species. The timing and length of spawning periods varies between species and also among fish of different sizes within a species. These activities require a lot of energy and can weaken fish, leaving them susceptible to secondary infections from diseases or parasites that can lead to their demise. Spawning activities can last for weeks, and large numbers of fish can die during that time; however, these events are rarely substantial enough to have a lasting effect on the species' population.

Any die-off is typically a single-species event, because each species spawns during a different time period, although some overlap can occur. Natural die-offs can even benefit some populations of species. For example, a die-off event can reduce populations that have reached unsustainable numbers. Normally, older and weaker fish of a single species are the ones affected.

Other natural causes of death in fish include injuries or old age, lack of food, lack of dissolved oxygen in the water, parasites or diseases, abrupt or extreme temperature changes, severe weather, and predation. Coming out of winter, many in Indiana have seen “winter kills” and gizzard shad die-offs.

Find more information on fish die-offs in the Indiana Fish Pond Management guide at wildlife.IN.gov/3614.htm.

For other fish kill information, see Purdue Extension's “What? Killed the Fish” at extension.purdue.edu.

If you happen upon a large number of dead fish of several species or sizes, or a pollutant is suspected, please call the Indiana DNR TIP line at **800-847-4367** or the Indiana Emergency Spill Line at **888-233-7745** or **317-233-7745**.

Other fish-related inquiries can be directed to DNR district fisheries biologists, whose contact information is at wildlife.IN.gov/3590.htm.

To view all DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

WAYNE COUNTY LAWMAKERS ANNOUNCE LOCAL STUDENTS RECEIVE \$7,500 TEACHING SCHOLARSHIPS

STATEHOUSE (May 12, 2020) — Several Wayne County students pursuing a career in education recently received the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship, according to State Reps. Brad Barrett (R-Richmond) and Tom Saunders (R-New Castle).


The statewide program awards scholarships to top-performing students who commit to teaching in Indiana for at least five years. Recipients receive \$7,500 per year for up to four years of college to obtain a teaching license. The program

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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Dave Wilcox holding first morel Mushrooms he found this current season. Twenty-two (sponge) mushrooms. (Dave's Triangle, Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Mike Williams brings home this nice 23 pound Turkey. It had a 9 1/2 inch beard on April 24, 2020. (Dave's Triangle, Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Eleven year old Jeremiah Hinds caught his first big crappie April 26, 2020. (Dave's Triangle, Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN) "Congratulations Jeremiah", Ray.

began as a result of legislation passed in 2016.

"These bright individuals will make great future educators," Barrett said. "Our Wayne County students awarded this scholarship are full of talent, and I look forward to seeing them in Hoosier classrooms one day."

The Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship is available to 200 high-achieving high school and college students each year who either graduate in the top 20% of their high school class or earn a score in the top-20th percentile on the SAT or ACT.

"This scholarship is a great opportunity for students studying education," Saunders said. "The program can help decrease the financial strain of college, so these individuals can focus on learning more about teaching and prepare to take on a classroom of their own."

More than 350 students applied and several scholarships were recently awarded to local students:

- Haley Dickerson, Centerville Sr High School, Ball State University;
- Kelli Drake, Northeastern High School, Indiana State University;
- Morgan Ferris, Lincoln Sr High School, Grace College; and

· Megan Quinn, Richmond High School, Hanover College.

Recipients must earn a 3.0 cumulative GPA and complete at least 30 credit hours per year in order to continue receiving the four-year renewable scholarship totaling \$30,000.

"Congratulations to all 200 students, who are on their way to becoming impactful, future Hoosier teachers," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers. "We know these students have the passion and determination to make a difference in classrooms across the state."

The 2020-2021 application will be available in the fall. Visit LearnMoreIndiana.org/next-teacher for more information.

State Rep. Brad Barrett (R-Richmond) represents House District 56, which includes portions of Wayne County.

U.S. 52 CLOSED WEST OF NEW TRENTON IN FRANKLIN COUNTY FOR STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Ind.— INDOT contractor Sunesis Construction closed U.S. 52 east of S.R. 1 near the Franklin-Dearborn County line this morning (May 11) to continue work on a \$637,000

small structure replacement contract.

The road is closed 4.77 miles east of S.R. 1 (west of New Trenton) in Franklin County and will remain closed for approximately 45 days. The official state detour for the closure will follow I-74 to S.R. 1 at St. Leon. This is the second of two closures on the contract. The first was completed late last month.

The contract was awarded in August 2019 and is expected to be complete by the end of July. Motorists should slow down, use extra caution and drive distraction-free through all work zones. All work is weather dependent.

Stay Informed

Motorists in Southeast Indiana can monitor road closures, road conditions, and traffic alerts any time via:

Facebook: [facebook.com/INDOTSoutheast](https://www.facebook.com/INDOTSoutheast)

Twitter: [@INDOTSoutheast](https://twitter.com/INDOTSoutheast)

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Chrissy Boone: I Wanted to share some pictures of the fish I caught while my family and I were fishing on 5/3/2020 at Whitewater State Park. I caught this 15 inch, 2.2 pound Crappie with a jig (first time ever using a jig). I was pretty excited to reel it in. My husband helped, making sure it didnt break my line. Got it to the bank and my line snapped, so my brother-in-law jumped down and grabbed it so it wouldn't get away. Very exciting to catch a fish this size for the first time.

Congratulations Chrissy your crappie is a whopper for sure. (Also see Chrissy's whopper Crappie on the cover of this issue being measured to prove its official length.) (I received photos from Chrissy Boone via e-mail. Chrissy, thank you for sending your photos to The Gad-a-bout).



Brandt Benjamin took his first Turkey on April 18, 2020 with a 20 gauge shotgun. He was hunting with his dad Jerry Benjamin, he harvested it at 10:00 a.m. Turkey was a 17# Jake. (Photo submitted by Jerry Benjamin via e-mail. Jerry, thank you for sending Brandt's first turkey photo to The Gad-a-bout).



Branson Russell, 14 years old got his first turkey on Saturday April 18, 2020, the first day of youth season. This was his first season to hunt. The turkey had a 10 inch beard and 1 inch spurs and weighed 20 + pounds. Branson can't thank Andy Bentz enough for making his hunt a success! (Photo submitted by Barbara Frye via e-mail. Barbara, thank you for sending Bransons first hunt and turkey photo to The Gad-a-bout).



Dennis Plemons: I took my grandson, Creek Plemons, out to a farm pond to do some fishing. We started fishing for blue gill. Not having any luck' water was real merky, Creek wanted to try a lure. I put a rattle lure on his line. After a couple of casts into trees, grandson made a successful cast, bass hits lure close to the bank, he sets hook and drags bass on to the bank. I ran down and snatched the 20 inch, 8 pound bass up before it started flopping around. Creek's bass was so big he didn't want to hold it for this photo. (Photo of Creek Plemons 20 inch, 8 pound bass was sent to me by a very proud Grandpa, Dennis Plemons' via his iphone.) Dennis, thank you for sending this photo to The Gad-a-bout).

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